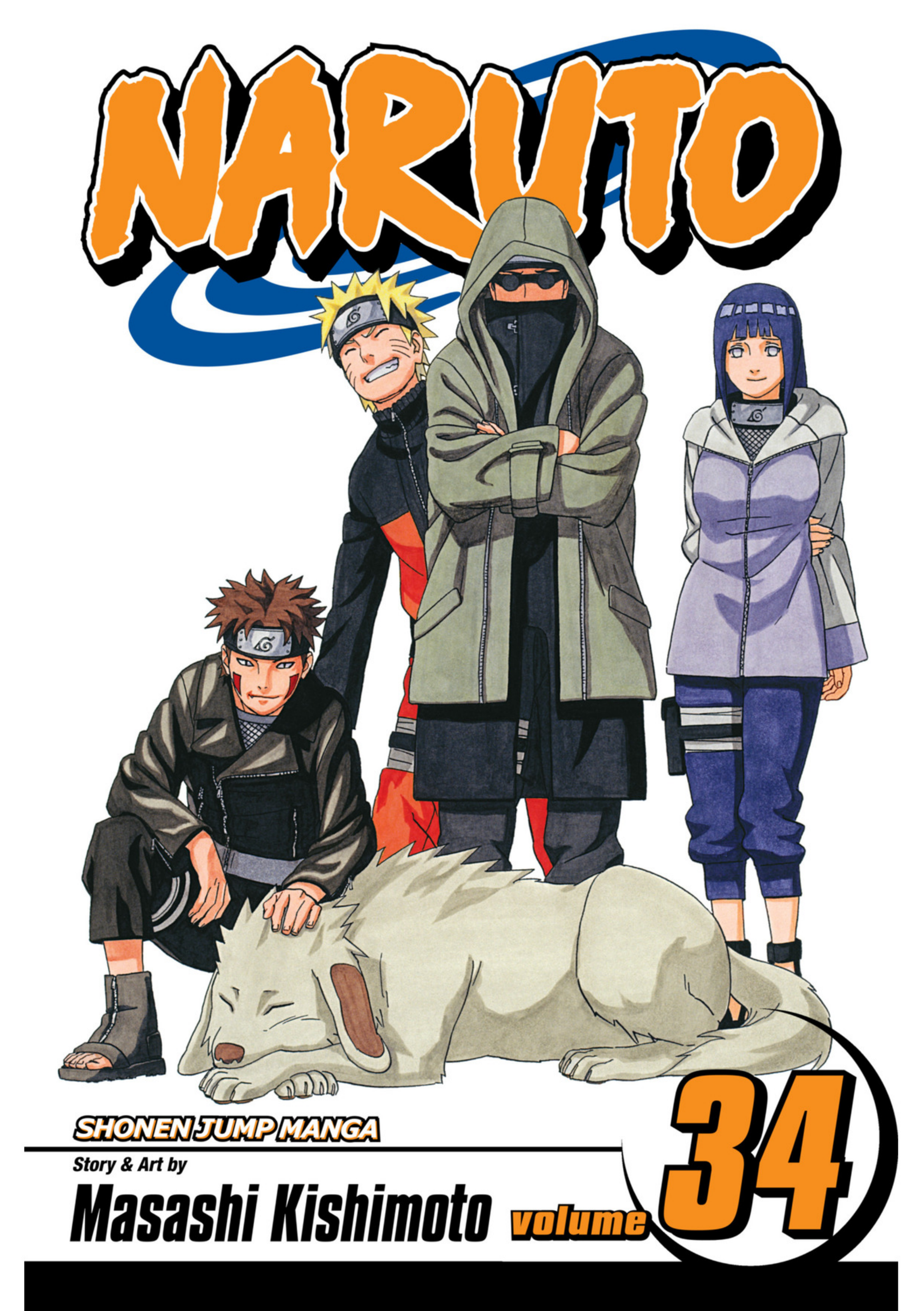
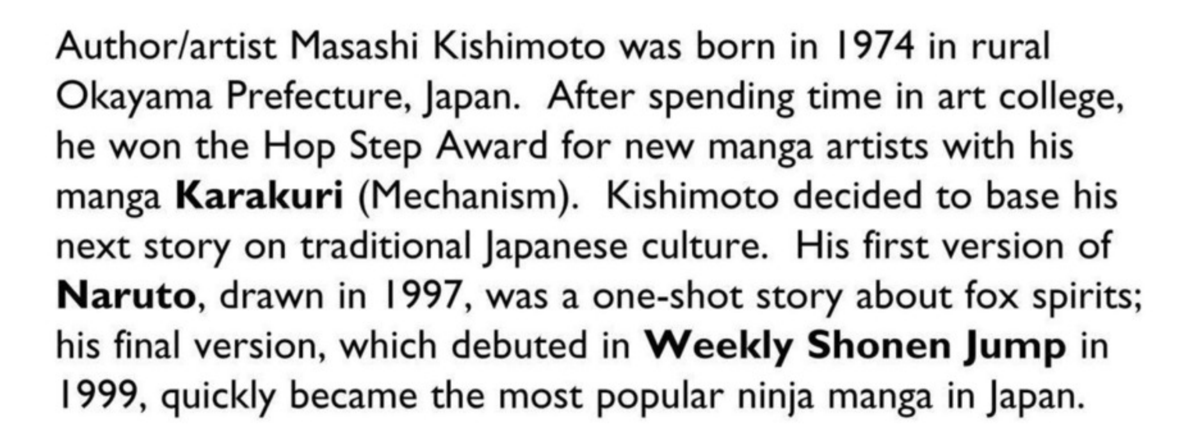

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume
34





Recently, the people around me tell me they have been reading books. I rarely read books, so I'm thinking about picking one up for the first time in a while. I'm considering either a mystery or a fantasy work.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2006



Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 34
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** # 73-74. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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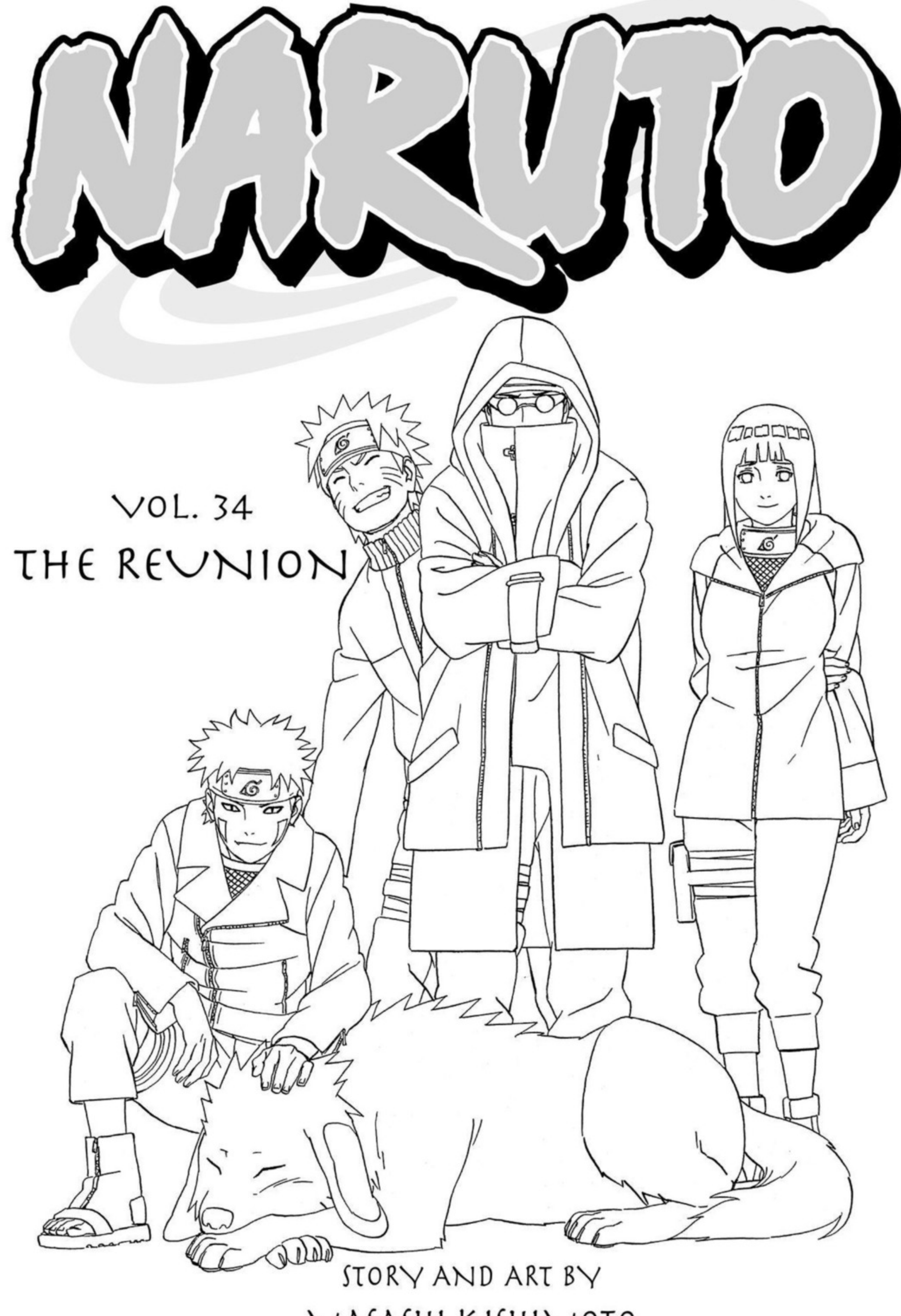




PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.
ratings.viz.com



SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION















The Story So Far...

With the aftershocks of *Operation: Destroy Konoha* still reverberating throughout their elite shinobi corps, the new Team Kakashi, under the substitute leadership of Captain Yamato, and joined by the enigmatic, emotionless Sai, sets out on a mission to rescue Sasuke from Orochimaru.

But their mission is soon jeopardized. First, by Orochimaru and his henchman, Kabuto...Then, by Naruto himself as he succumbs to the power of the Nine-Tailed Fox demon hidden inside him and goes on a rampage...And finally by Sai who is secretly working for Danzo, leader of the military organization The Foundation.

But with Sai's private picture book now in their possession, Naruto, Sakura and Yamato regroup in an attempt to unravel the secrets of Sai's *real* mission...





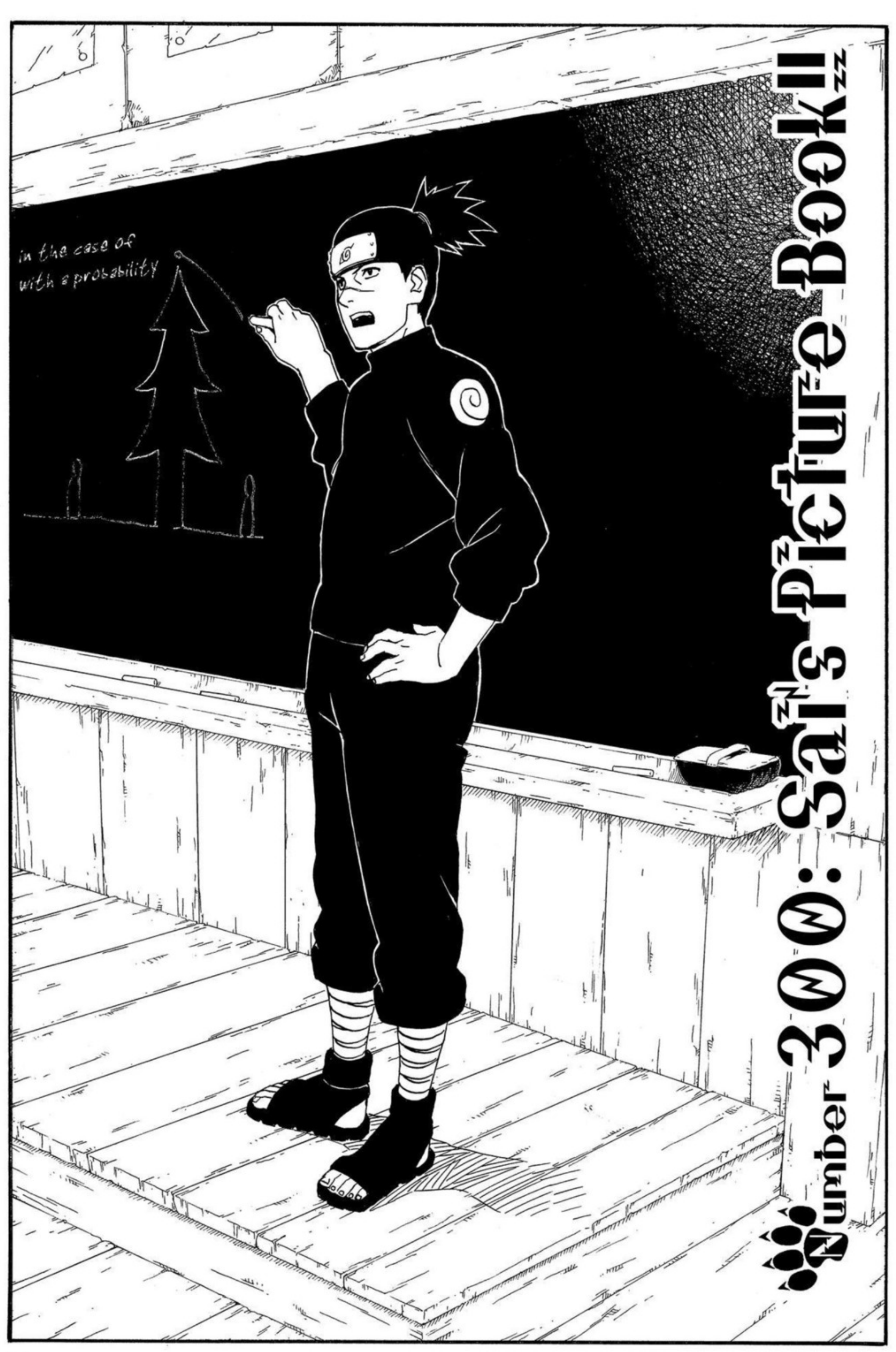
NARUTO

VOL. 34
THE REUNION

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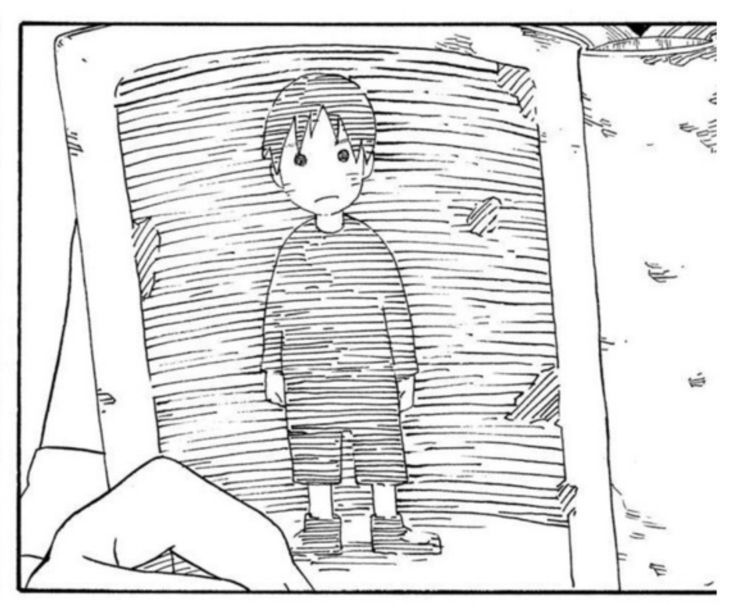


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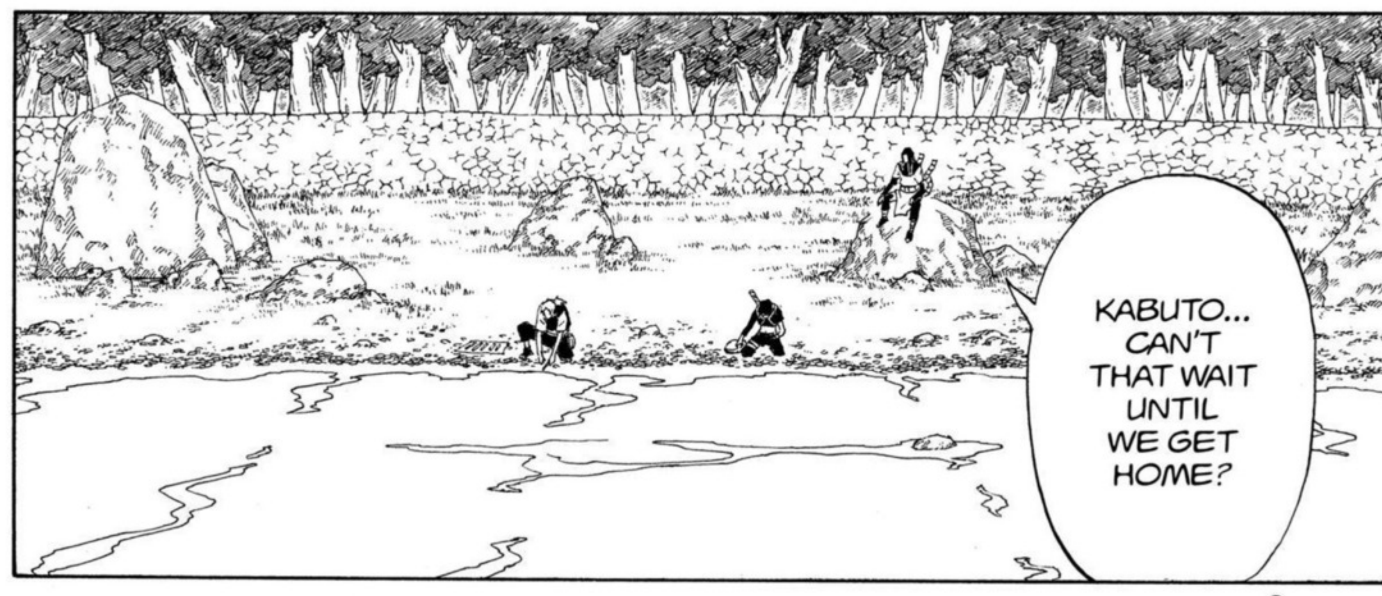

Number 300: Sai's Picture Book!!
in the case of
with a probability

WEIRD PICTURES.

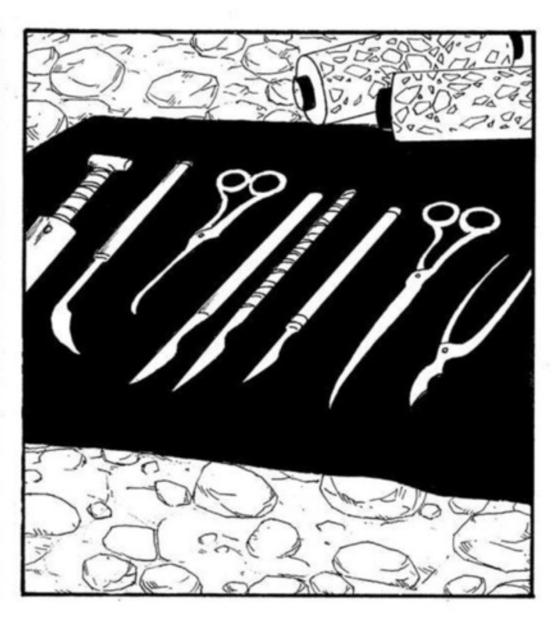
SAI DREW THEM, EH?





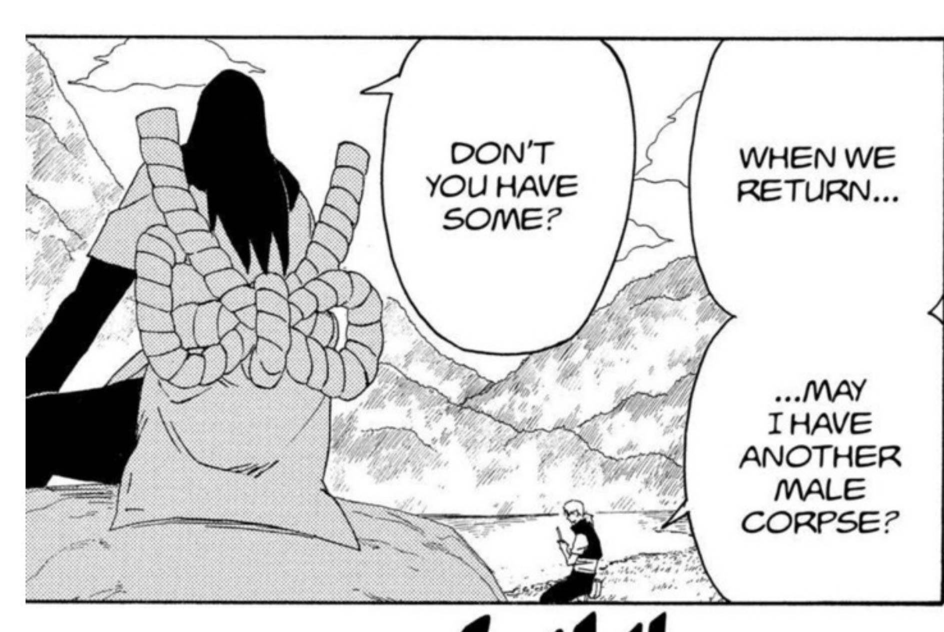



READ THIS WAY




NO...THE BLADES WILL LOSE THEIR RAZOR-SHARP EDGE...
...IF ONE DOESN'T CLEAN THE *BLOOD* IMMEDIATELY.
LORD OROCHI-MARU...


...?!


WHEN WE RETURN...
...MAY I HAVE ANOTHER MALE CORPSE?
DON'T YOU HAVE SOME?


OH, I HAVE *MANY*...
...JUST NO MORE 15- OR 16-YEAR-OLD MALES, LIKE THIS ONE.
SHH
HF
IF I DON'T ALWAYS HAVE AT LEAST ONE OF EACH AGE RANGE STORED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER IN MY SCROLL, I GET... *ANXIOUS*.
男
男
男
男
女

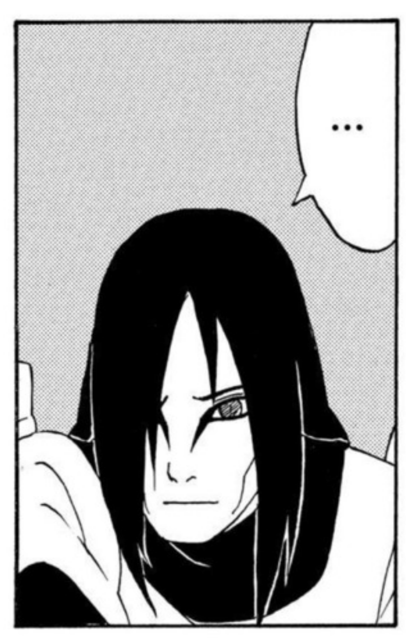

SCRUB SCRUB
AB ACTUALLY.


YOU MUST BE A TYPE A...
...RIGHT, KABUTO?


RUSTLE


...!


...

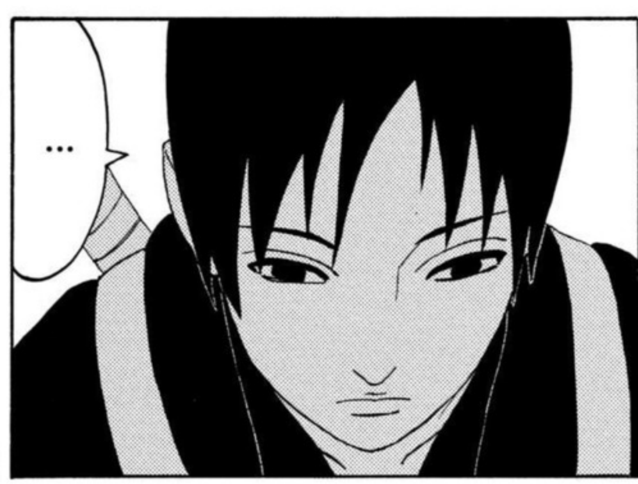

...


...
IT'S MISSING...


READ THIS WAY


SOME-THING WRONG, SAI?
IT'S... IT'S NOTHING...

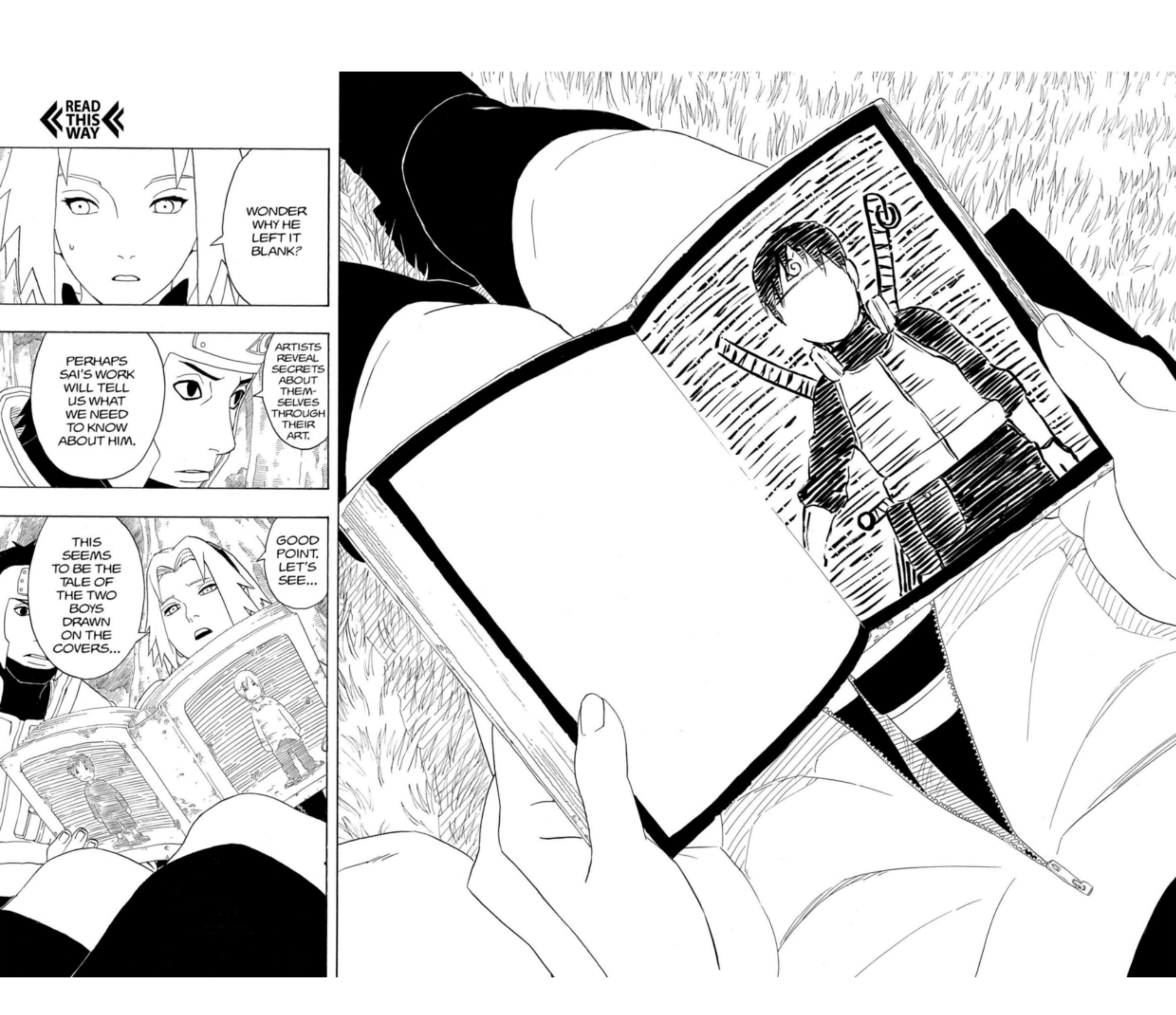

THEN LET'S GET GOING...
...WE STILL HAVE A WAYS.


...


STRANGEST THING ABOUT SAI'S PICTURE BOOK...?


THE CENTERFOLD. IT SEEMS REALLY OUT OF PLACE.

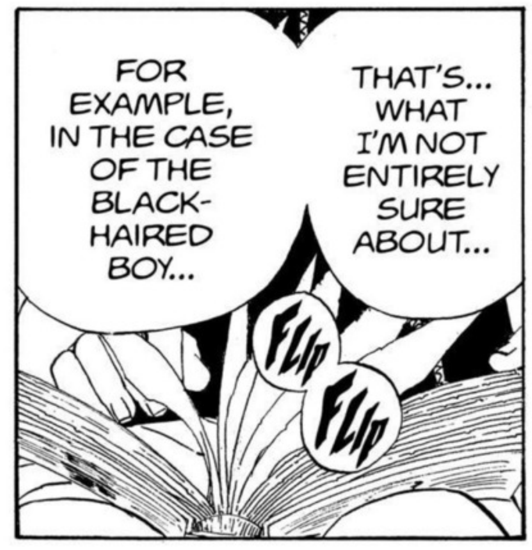

YEAH...
...AND REALLY CREEPY...


READ THIS WAY
WONDER WHY HE LEFT IT BLANK?
ARTISTS REVEAL SECRETS ABOUT THEM-SELVES THROUGH THEIR ART.
PERHAPS SAI'S WORK WILL TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIM.
GOOD POINT. LET'S SEE...
THIS SEEMS TO BE THE TALE OF THE TWO BOYS DRAWN ON THE COVERS...


EACH BOY'S ADVENTURE BEGINS SEPARATELY...
...STARTING WITH THE COVER AT EITHER END, THEN GOING INWARD...


BUT THERE'S NO DIALOGUE OR TEXT AT ALL.


NO WORDS? JUST PICTURES? WHAT KINDA STUPID STORY IS THIS?


THAT'S... WHAT I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE ABOUT...
FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE OF THE BLACK-HAIRED BOY...
FLIP
FLIP


READ
THIS
WAY




THE RIGHT-HAND PAGE ALWAYS SHOWS THE BOY...
...AND THE LEFT-HAND PAGE HAS A DIFFERENT CHARACTER ON IT EACH TIME...


...
SEE...

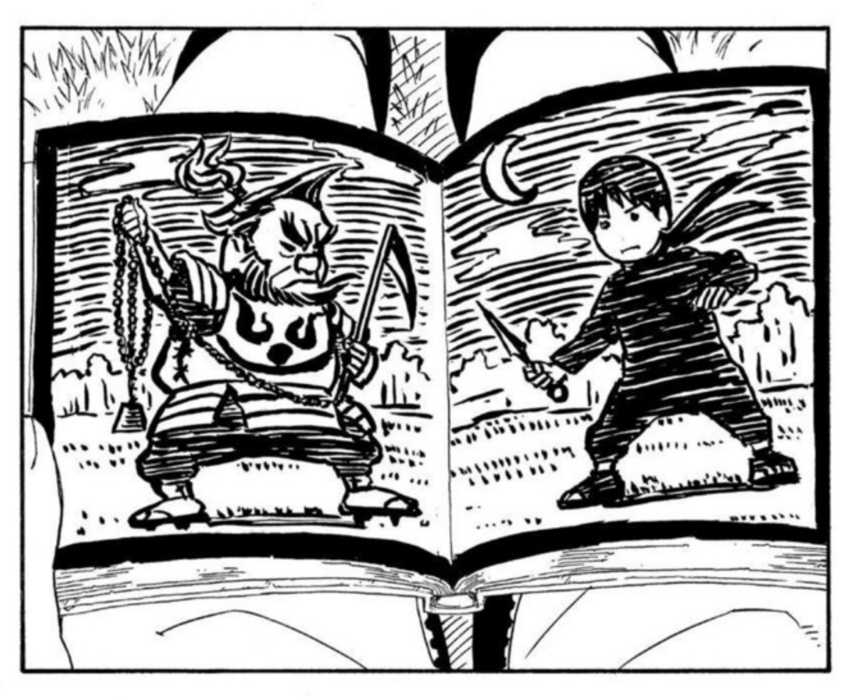



WAIT!
GO BACK TO THAT LAST PAGE FOR A SEC!


?


FLIP

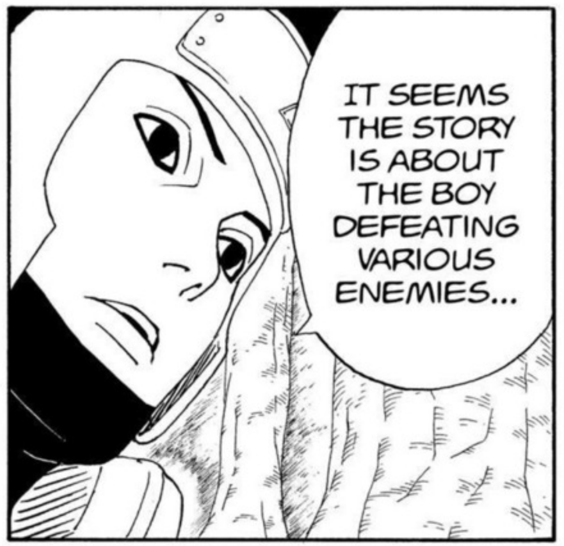

SEE!
ON EACH PAGE, THAT KID LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
AND NOT ONLY THAT...



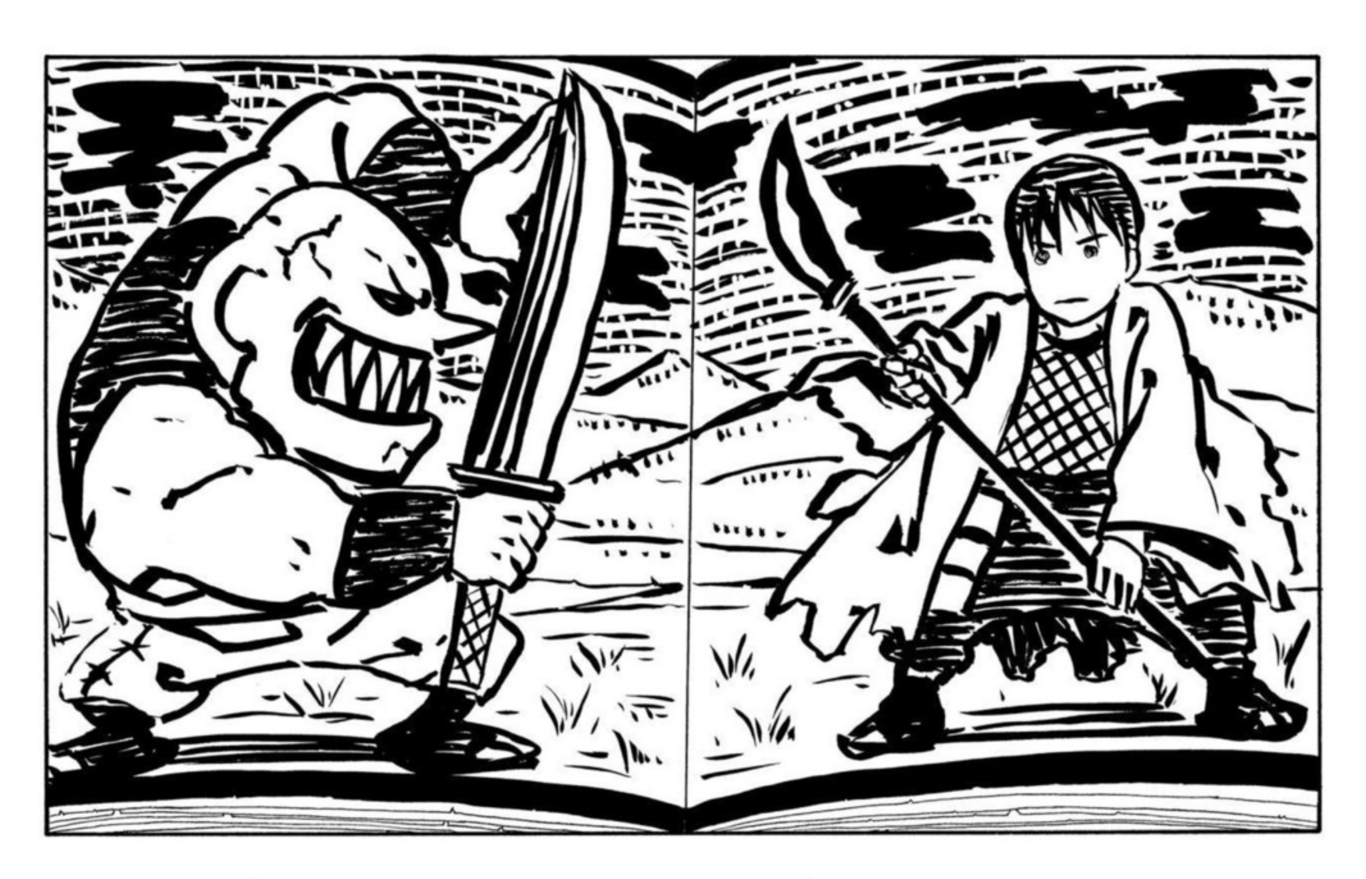

...HE'S HOLDING THE SAME WEAPON AS THE CHARACTER FROM THE PREVIOUS LEFT-HAND PAGE...
FLIP



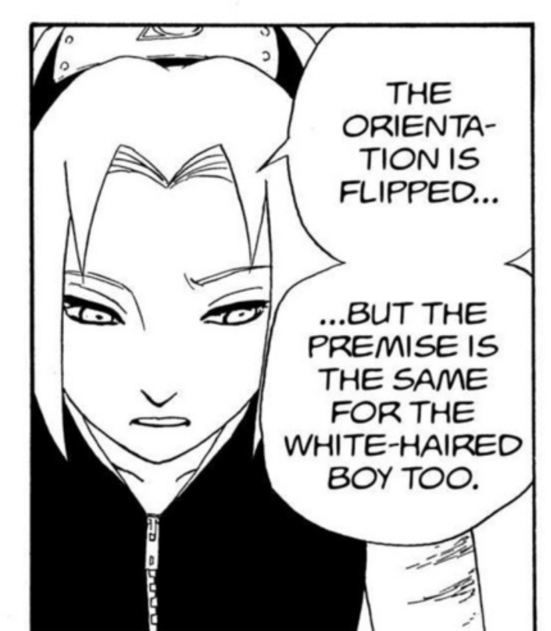

READ THIS WAY

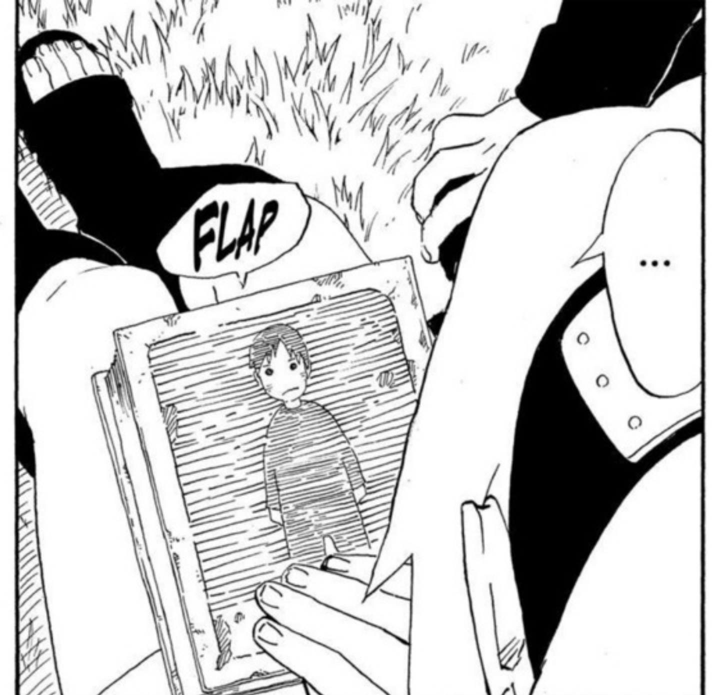

IT SEEMS THE STORY IS ABOUT THE BOY DEFEATING VARIOUS ENEMIES...


AND...
...TAKING THEIR WEAPONS AND ARMOR, LIKE SPOILS OF WAR...
FLIP

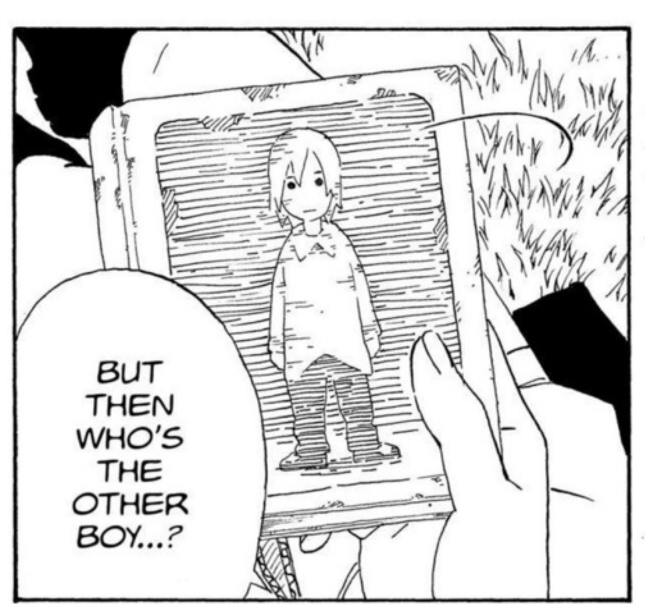



SEE? IT'S THE SAME EVERY TIME.
WITH EACH BATTLE, THE BOY MATURES... GAINS KNOWL-EDGE, WISDOM, STRENGTH ...


THE ORIENTA-TION IS FLIPPED...
...BUT THE PREMISE IS THE SAME FOR THE WHITE-HAIRED BOY TOO.

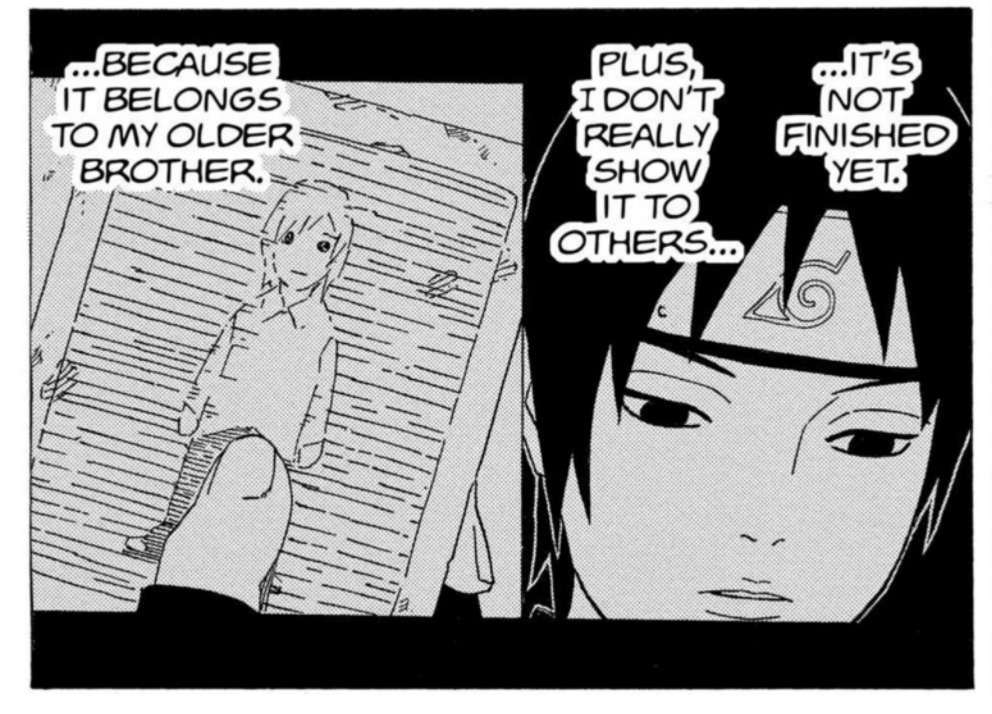

FLAP
...


HEY!
DOESN'T THE BLACK-HAIRED KID LOOK AN AWFUL LOT LIKE SAI?


BUT THEN WHO'S THE OTHER BOY...?


...YOU'RE RIGHT...
PERHAPS HE WAS DRAWING HIS OWN STORY.


....!

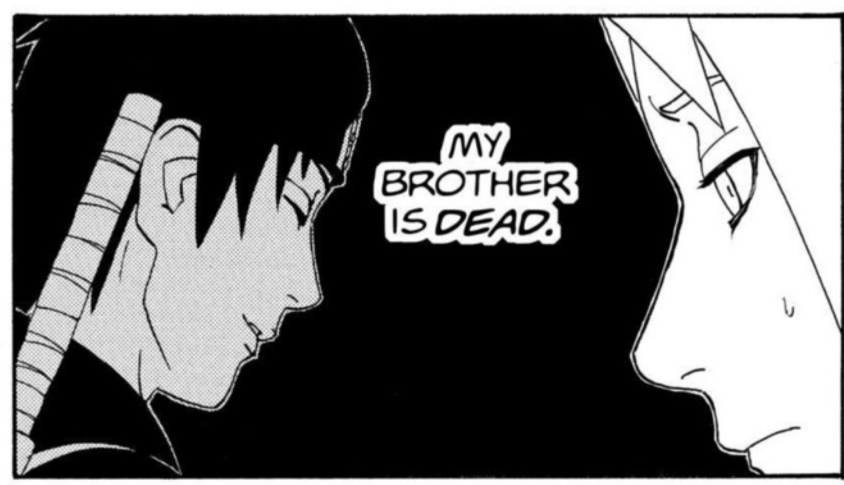

...IT'S NOT FINISHED YET.
PLUS, I DON'T REALLY SHOW IT TO OTHERS...
...BECAUSE IT BELONGS TO MY OLDER BROTHER.


READ THIS WAY


I THINK...
...IT MIGHT BE SAI'S OLDER BROTHER ...


?

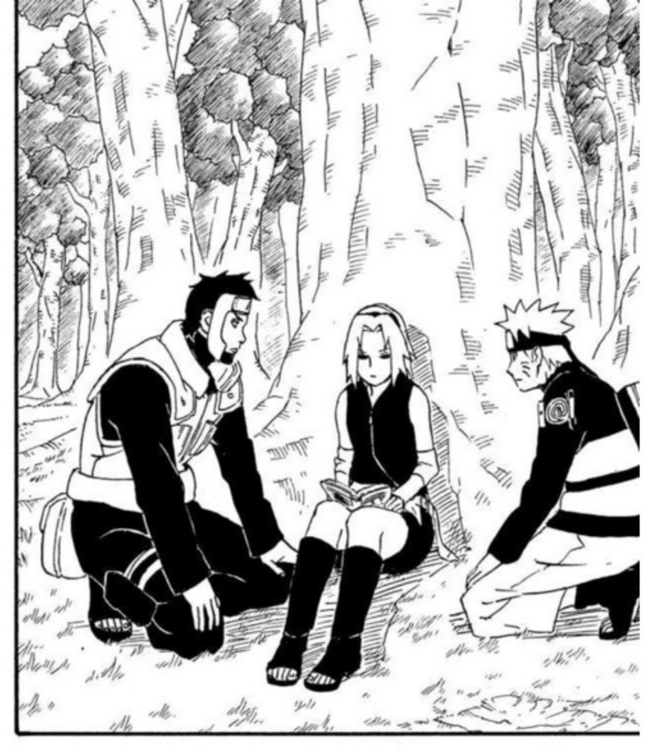

...


MY BROTHER IS DEAD.


...

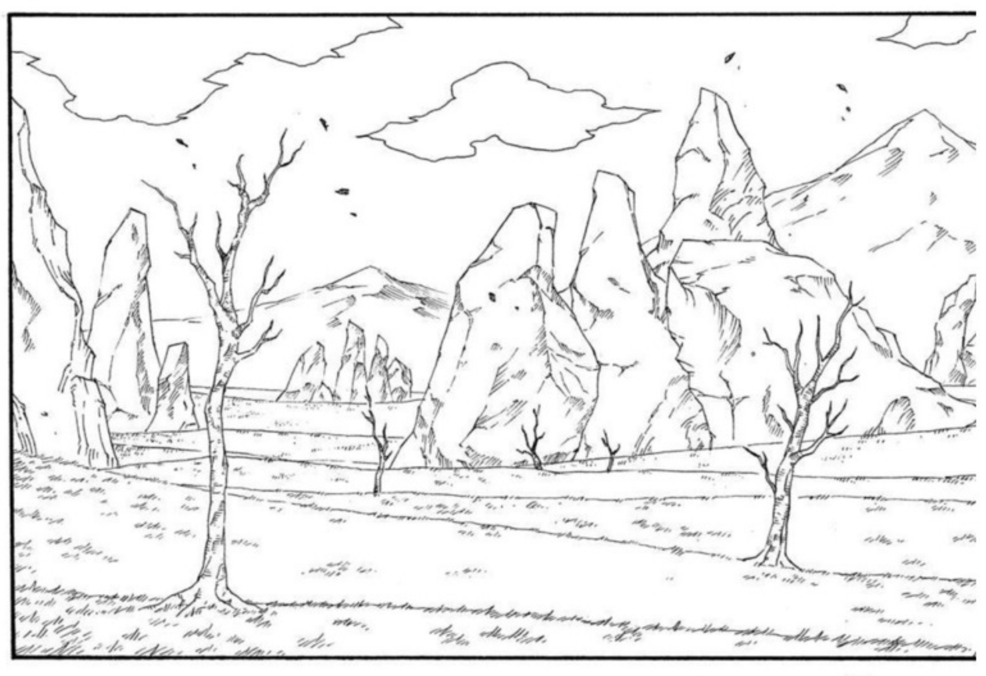
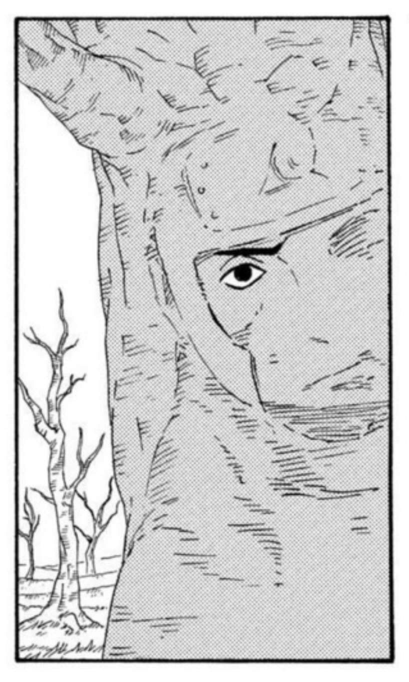

WHICH WOULD MEAN...
...THE CENTER-FOLD...


...WAS MEANT TO BE SAI... AND HIS BROTHER TOGETHER...

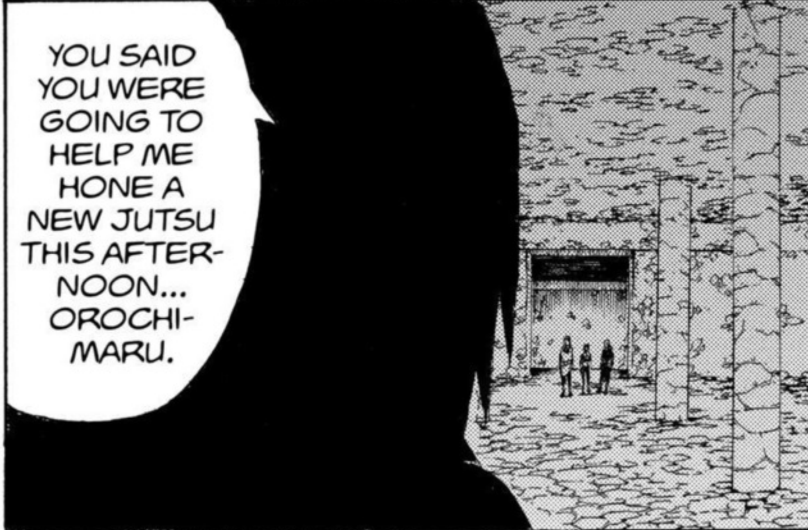


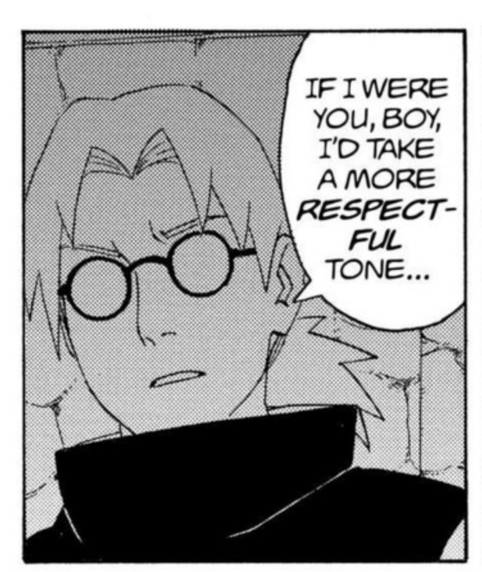
...!

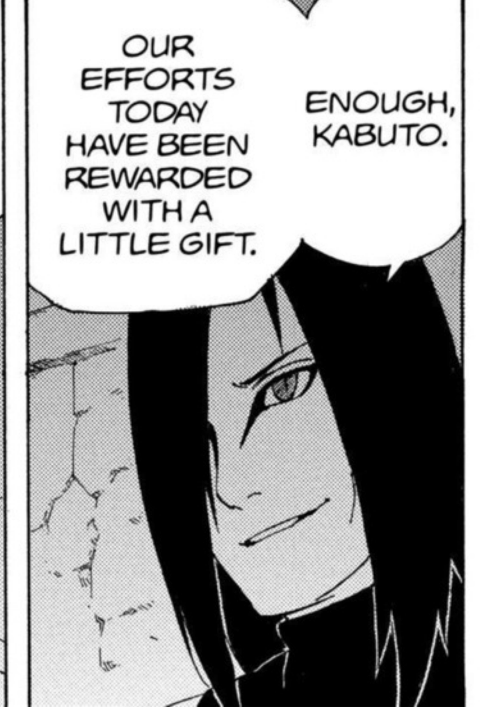
MY DOPPEL-GANGER HAS TRACKED DOWN OROCHIMARU'S HIDEOUT.
LET'S HEAD OUT.
HUP

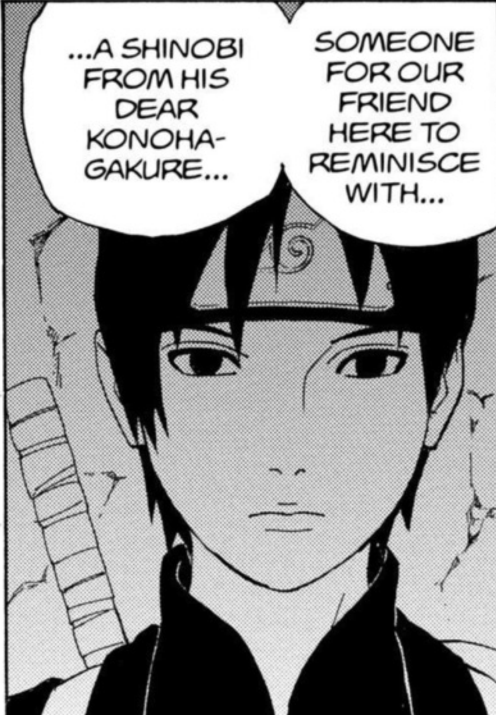




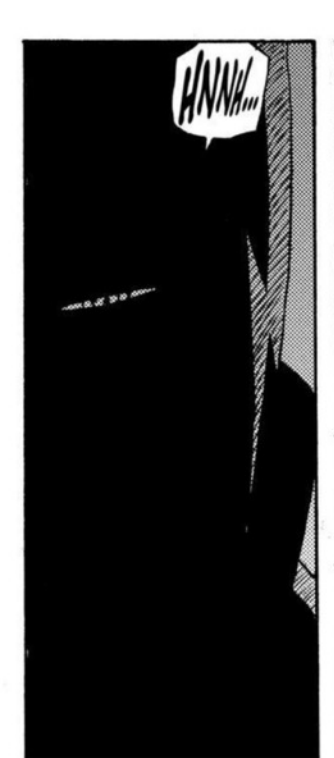
YOU'RE LATE.

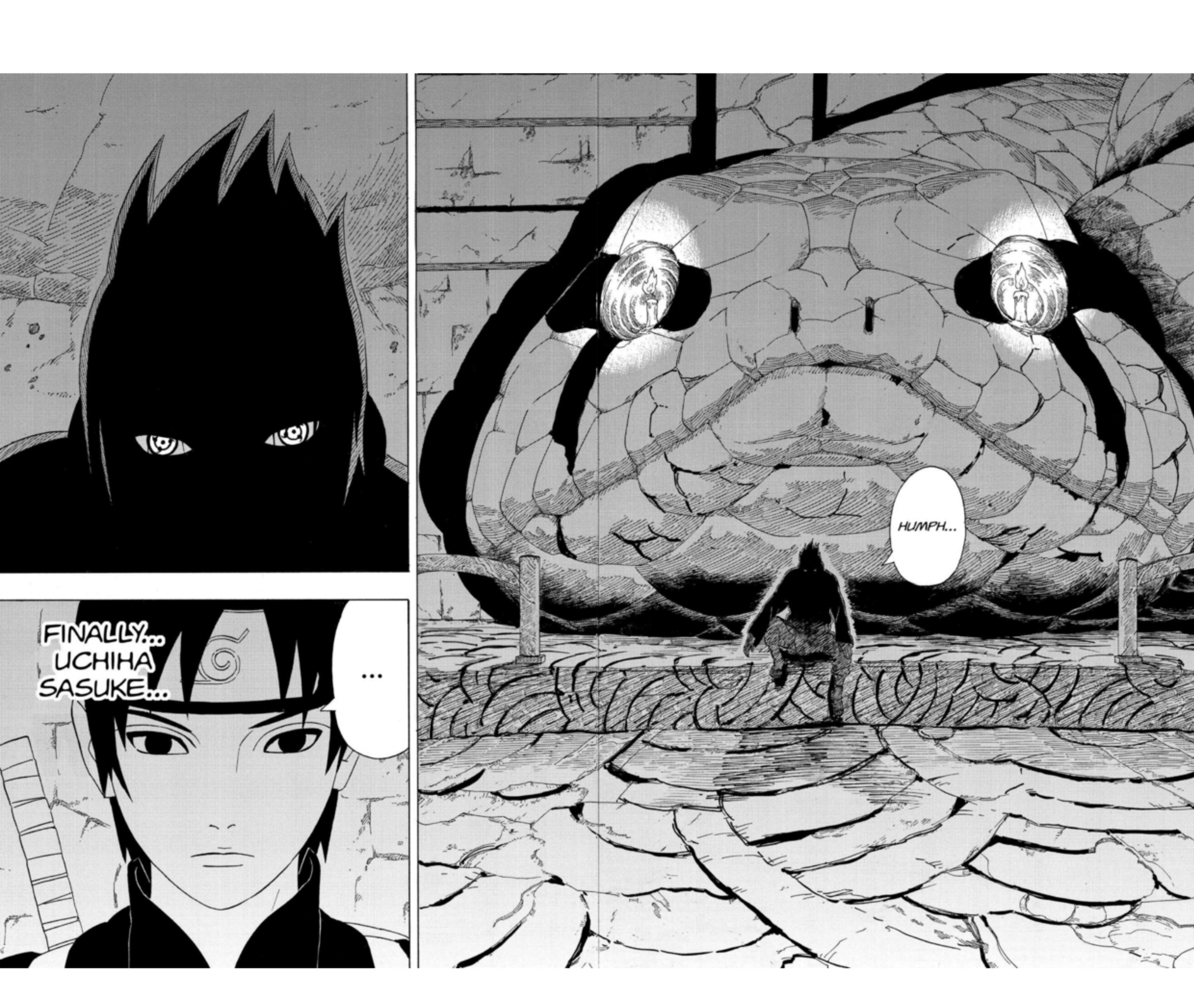

YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO HELP ME HONE A NEW JUTSU THIS AFTERNOON... OROCHIMARU.

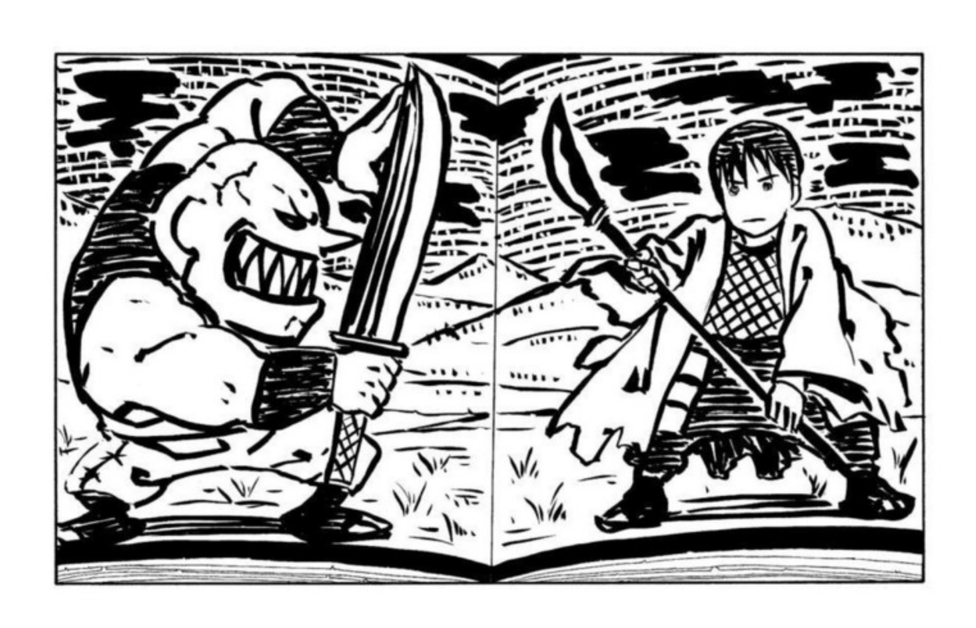

IF I WERE YOU, BOY, I'D TAKE A MORE *RESPECTFUL* TONE...


ENOUGH, KABUTO.
OUR EFFORTS TODAY HAVE BEEN REWARDED WITH A LITTLE GIFT.

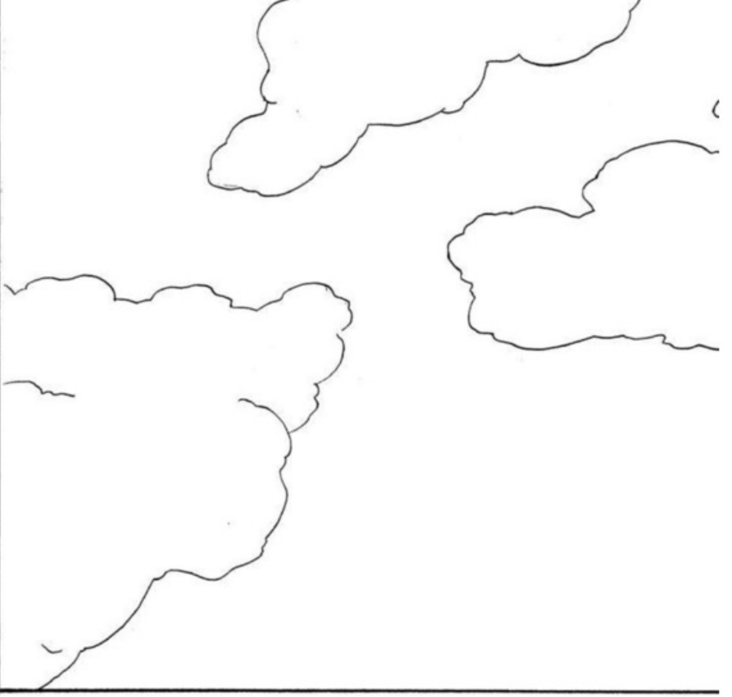
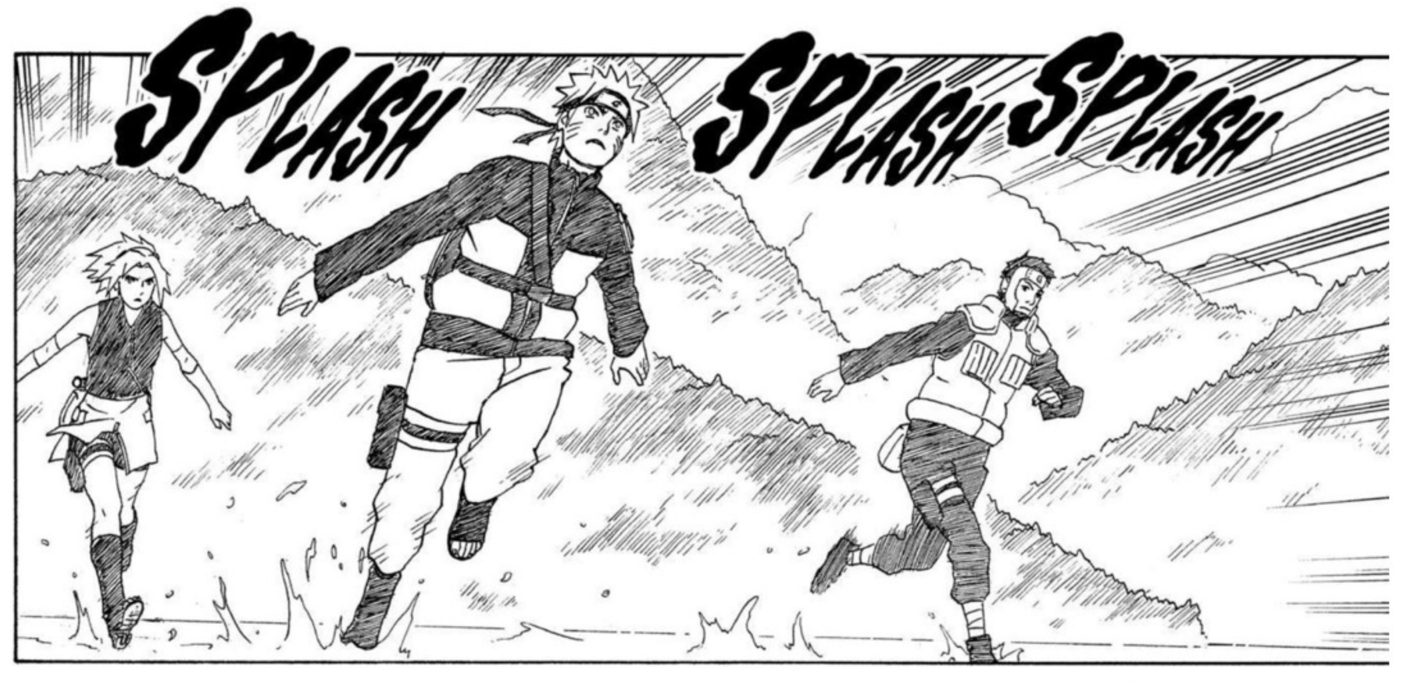

SOMEONE FOR OUR FRIEND HERE TO REMINISCE WITH...
...A SHINOBI FROM HIS DEAR KONOHAGAKURE...


HNNH...

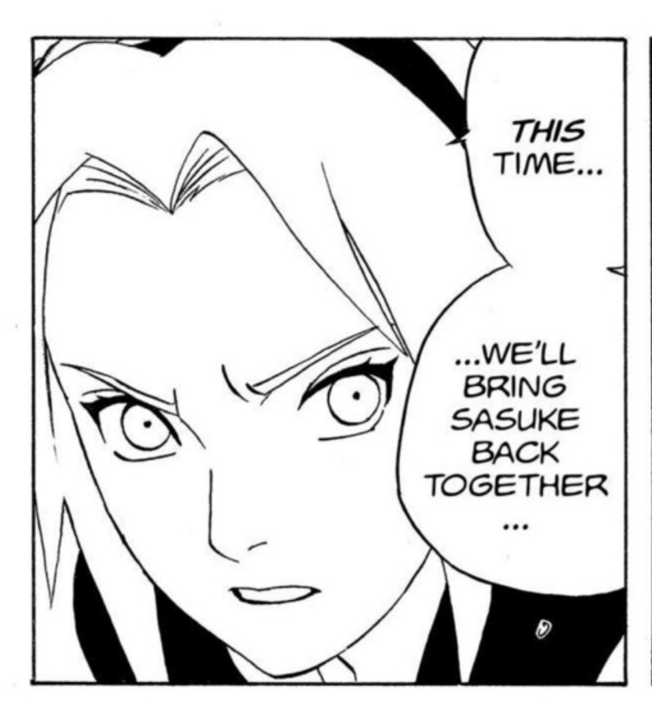

HUMPH...
...
FINALLY... UCHIHA SASUKE...




Number 301: Sai & Sasuke!!
四代目火影


SPLASH


SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

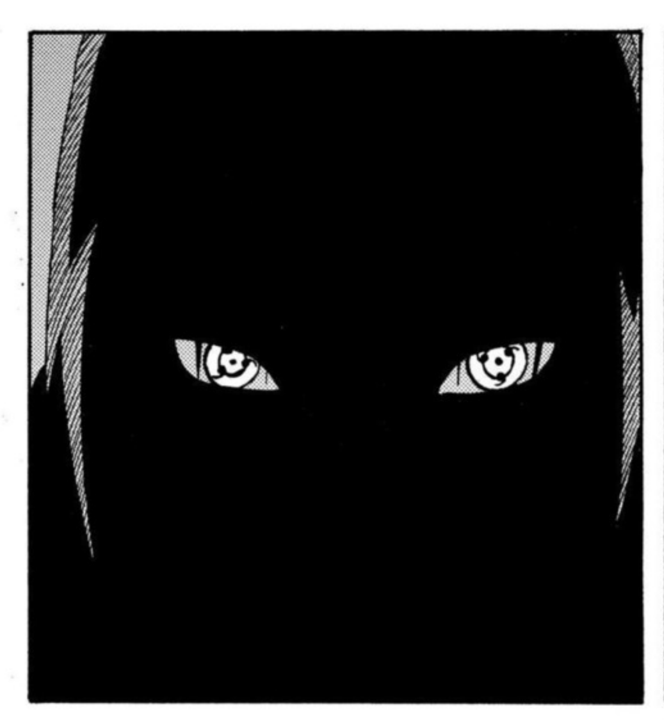
NARUTO.

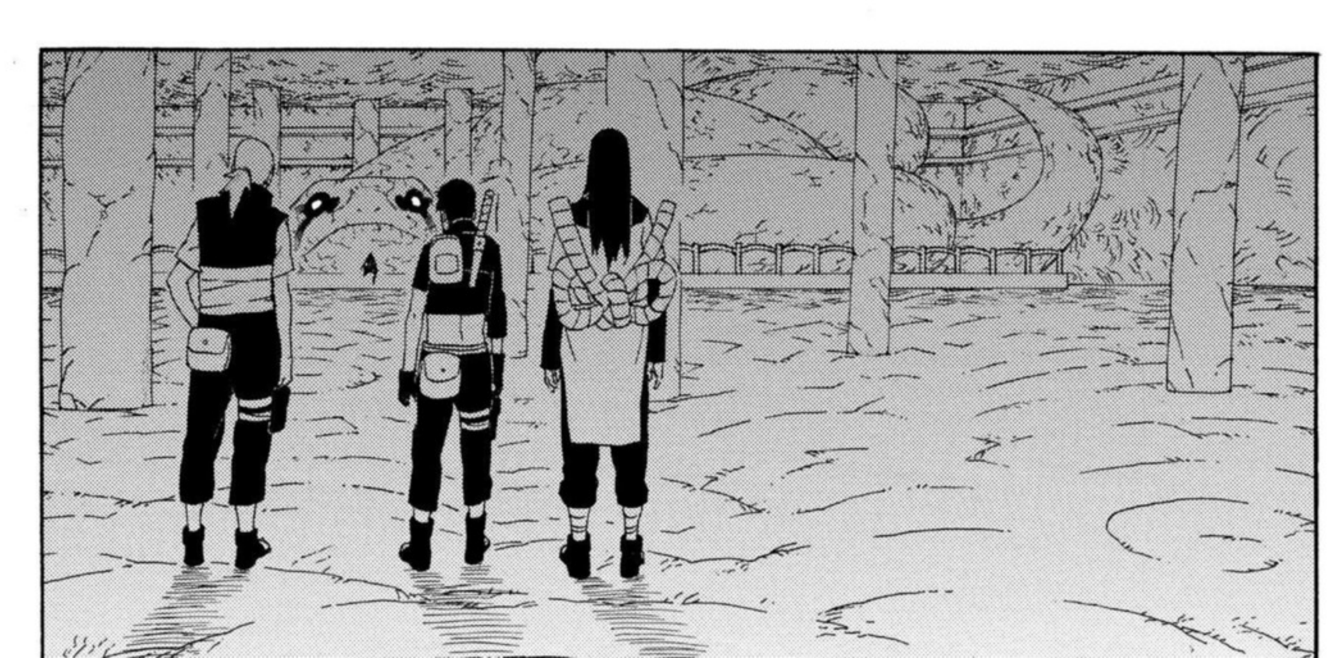
?

THIS TIME...
...WE'LL BRING SASUKE BACK TOGETHER...

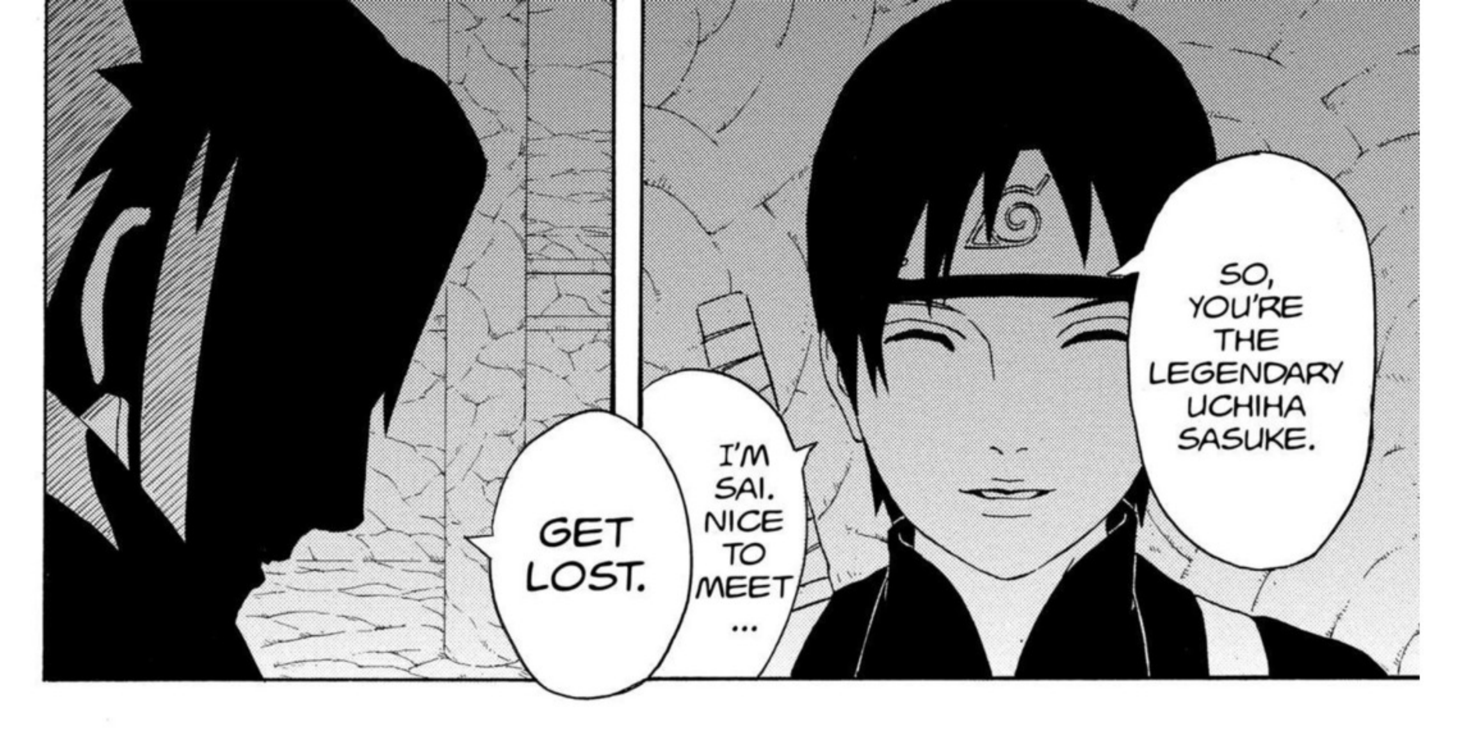

READ THIS WAY

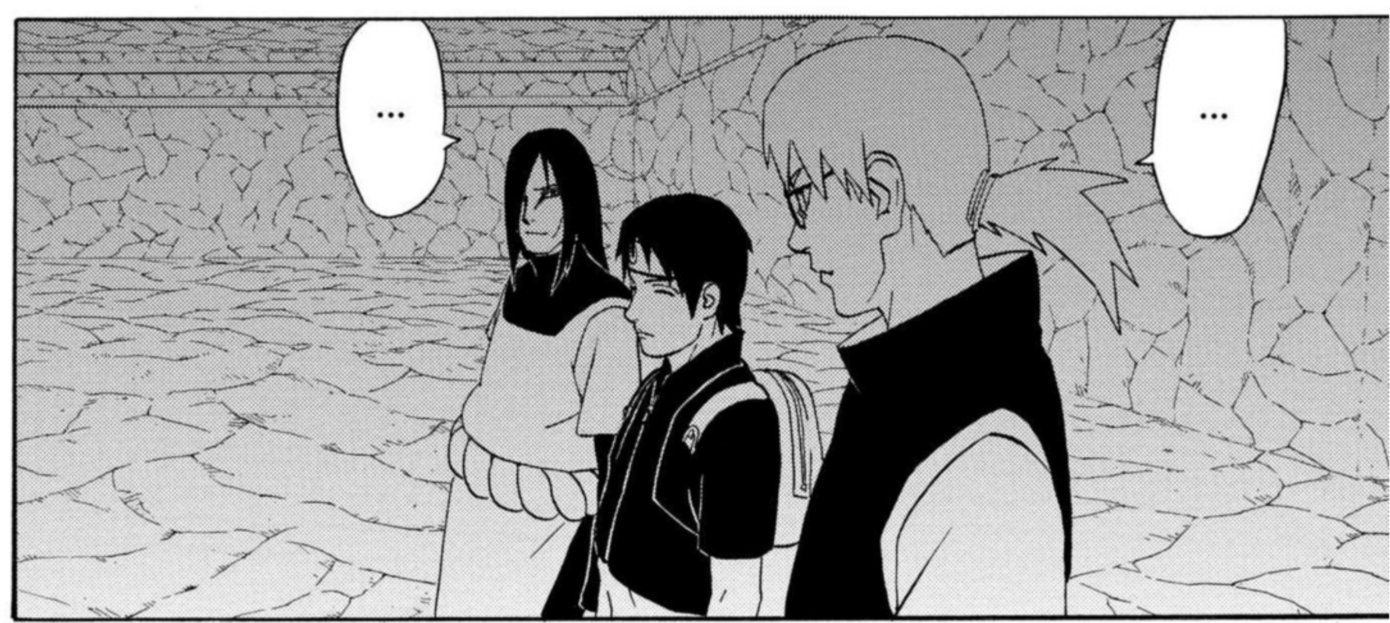

SPLASH
SPLASH


OH YEAH...

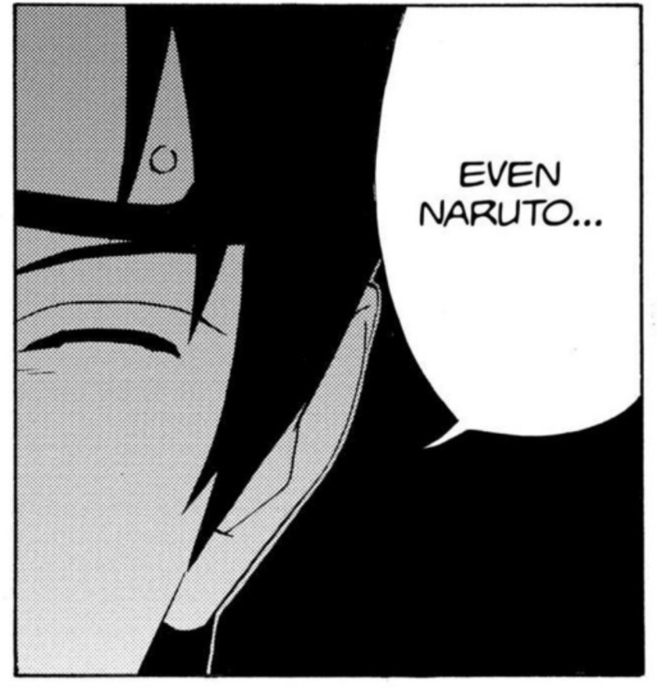





SO, YOU'RE THE LEGENDARY UCHIHA SASUKE.
I'M SAI. NICE TO MEET ...
GET LOST.

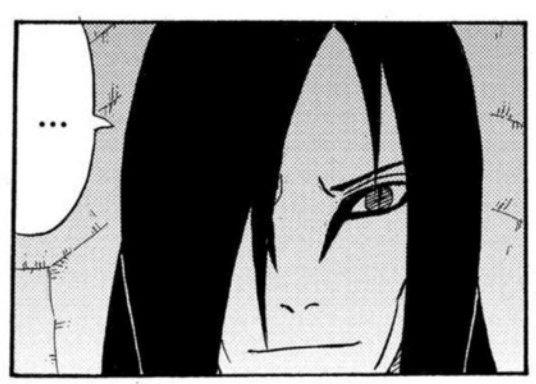

...
...


NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SMILE...
...EVERY-ONE SEEMS TO DISLIKE ME RIGHT AWAY...


EVEN NARUTO...


READ THIS WAY

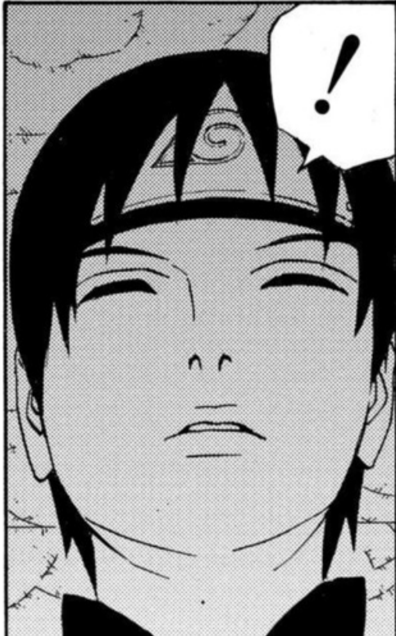

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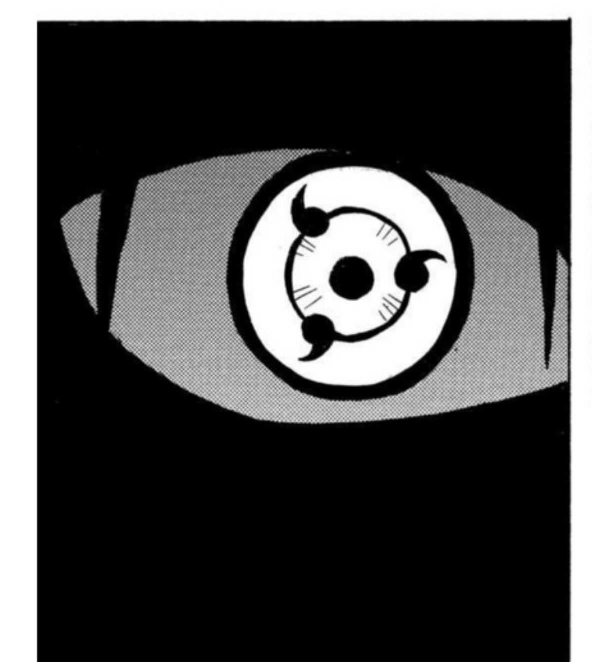

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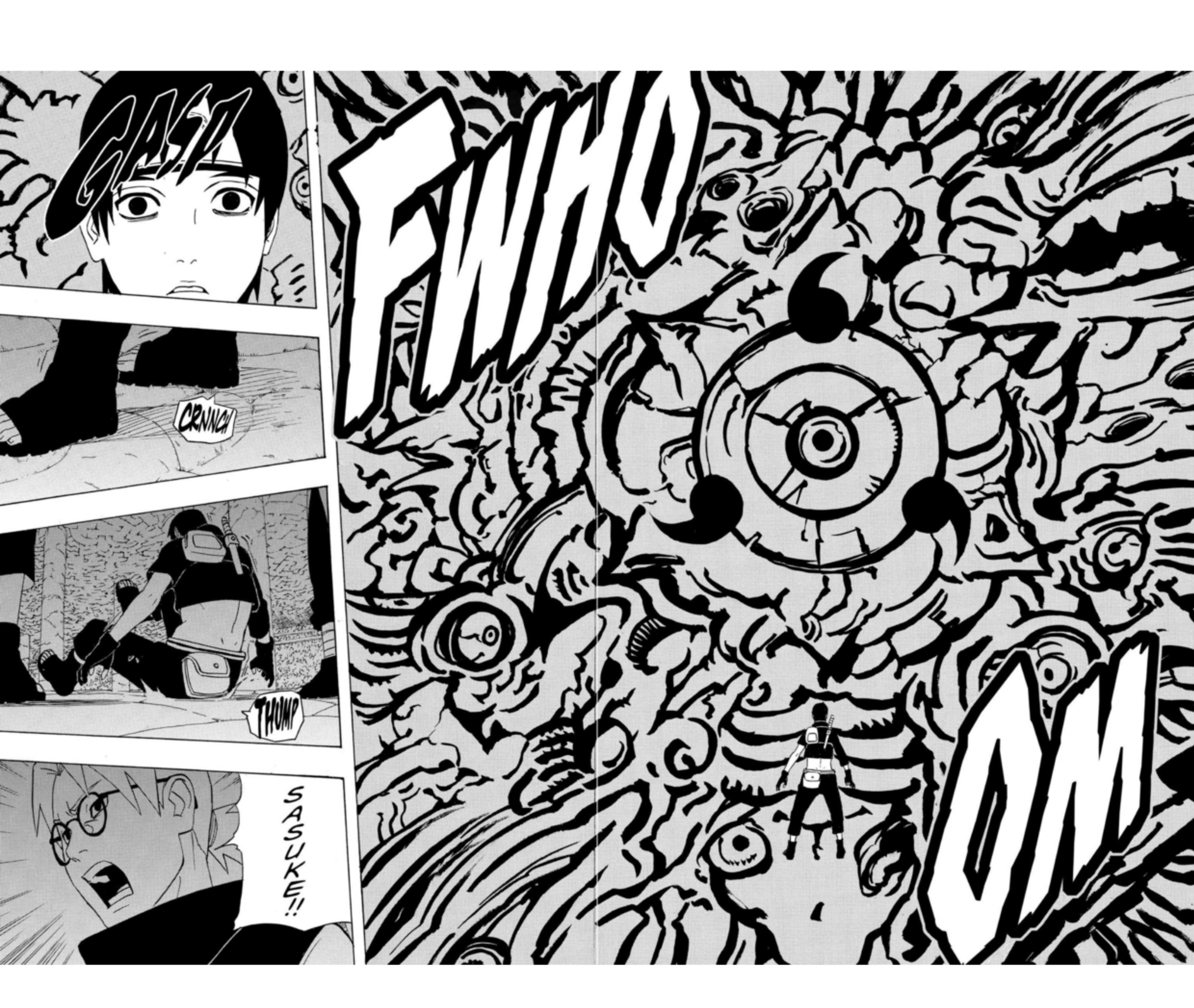

BUT... I CAN ALREADY TELL YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HIM...
...SO I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU AND I WILL GET ALONG MUCH BETTER.

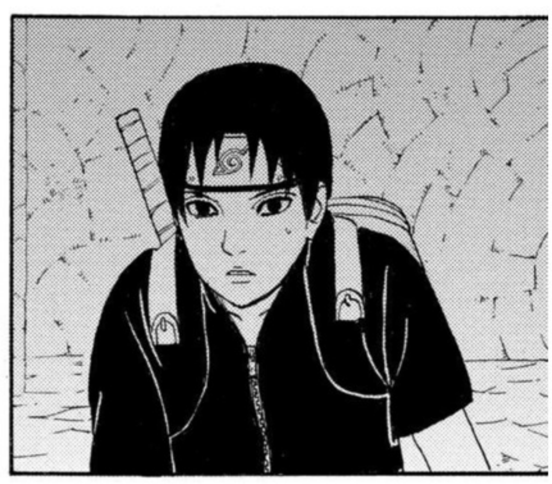

...




!




GASP
CRNNCH
THUMP
SASUKE!!
FWHO
OM







!
I'M SWEAT-ING...?





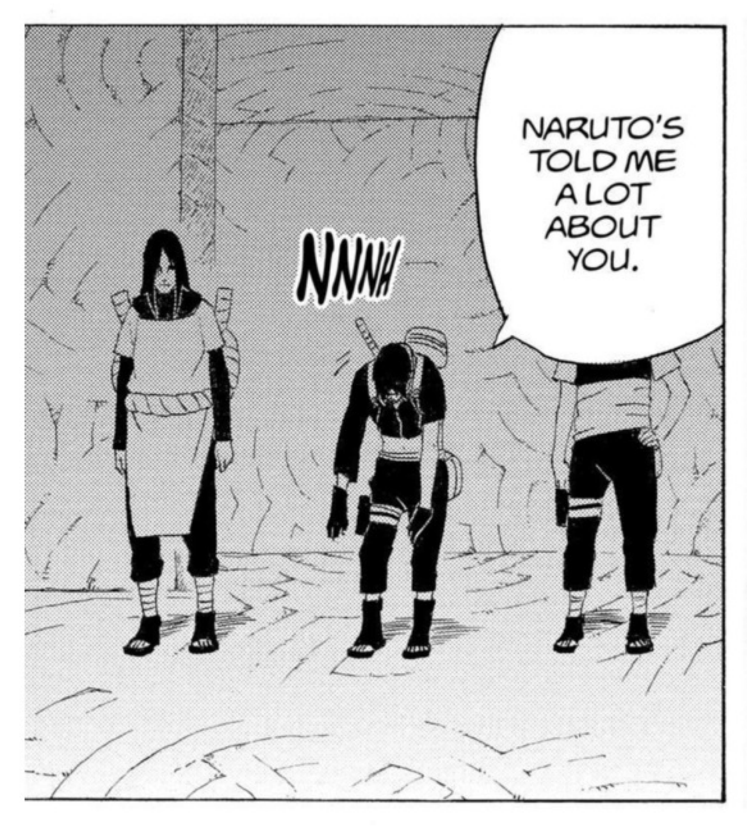
I HAVE NO EMOTIONS, I FEEL NOTHING...
...AND YET, JUST BY MEETING HIS EYES... I SOMEHOW FEAR SASUKE FROM THE BOTTOM OF A HEART I THOUGHT I DIDN'T HAVE...

READ THIS WAY



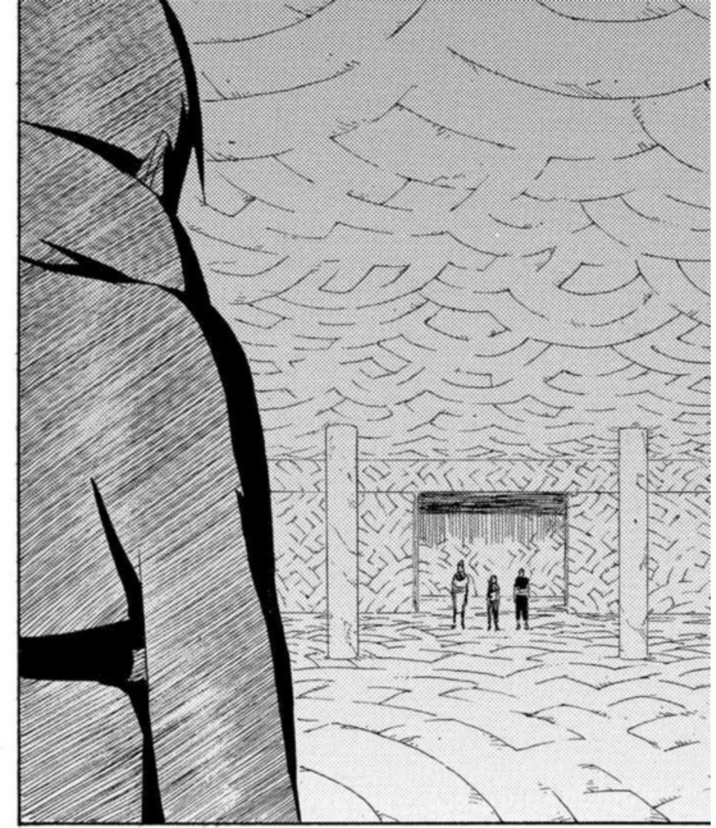




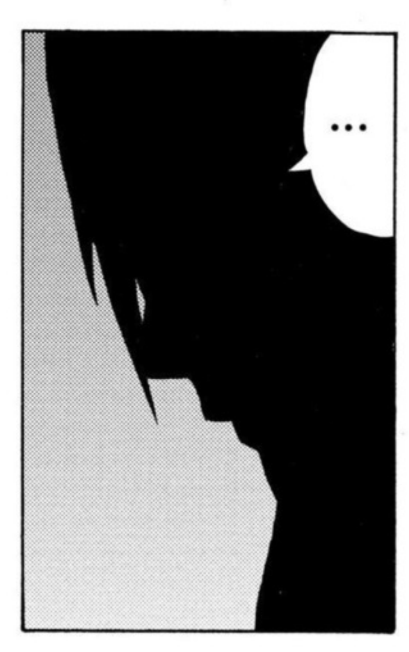
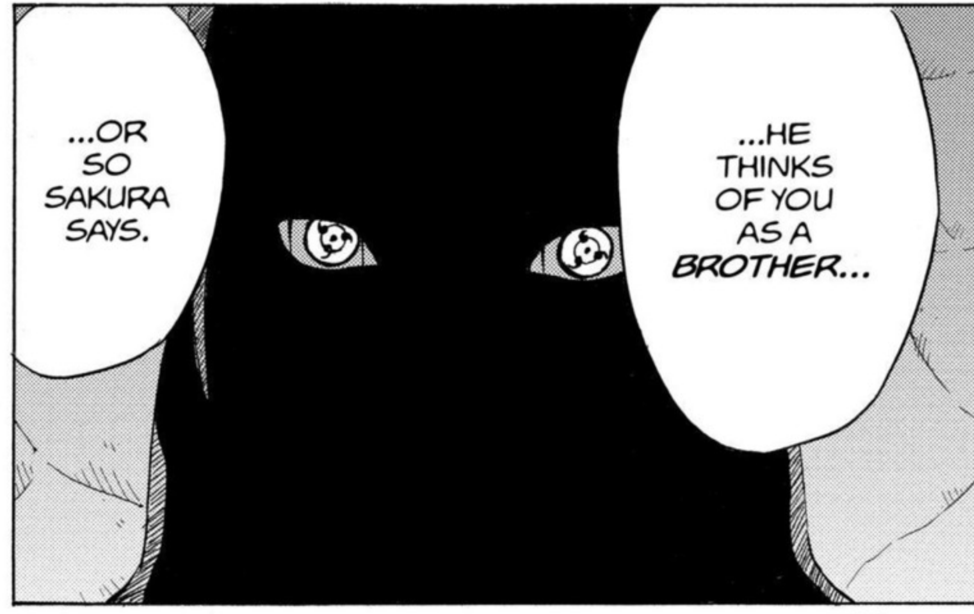






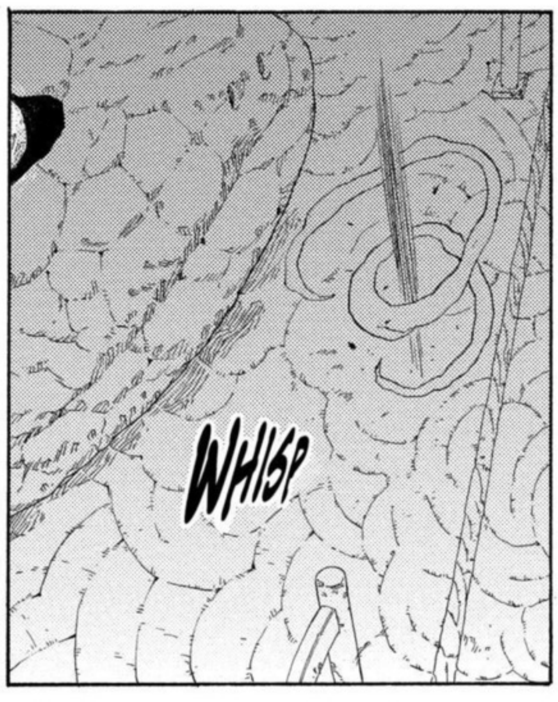

OH YEAH...
...HIM.


LET'S GO, OROCHI-MARU...
NARUTO...

...

...

...HE THINKS OF YOU AS A BROTHER...
...OR SO SAKURA SAYS.

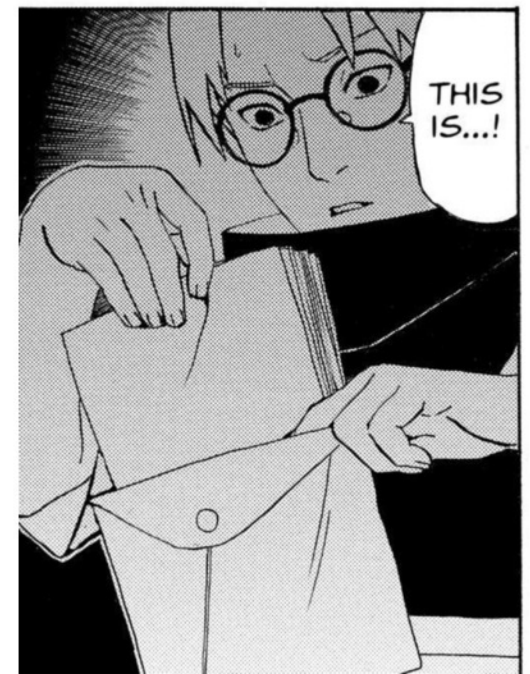

THE ONLY BROTHER I HAVE...
...I WANT TO KILL.


...


WHISP


I'M GOING TO JOIN HIM.
KABUTO... WHY DON'T YOU COMPILE A BINGO BOOK WITH THESE.


SHUFF SHUFF
KRRNKLE


THIS IS...!

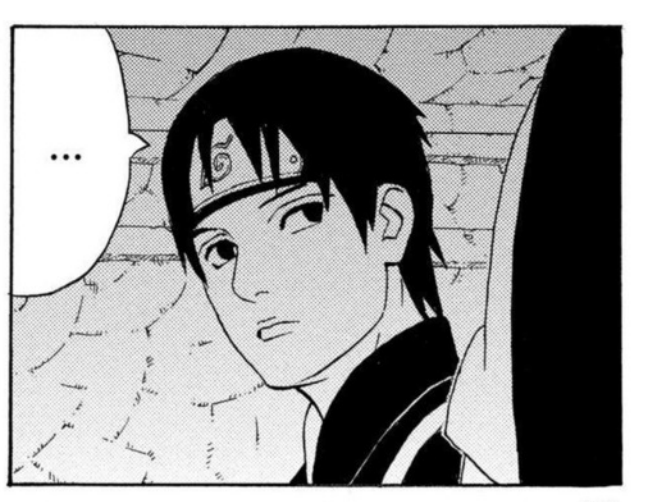
A COPY OF THE REGISTER OF BLACK OPS MEMBERS DIRECTLY ASSIGNED TO THE HOKAGE...

NINJA ASSASSIN CORPS, CELL 1

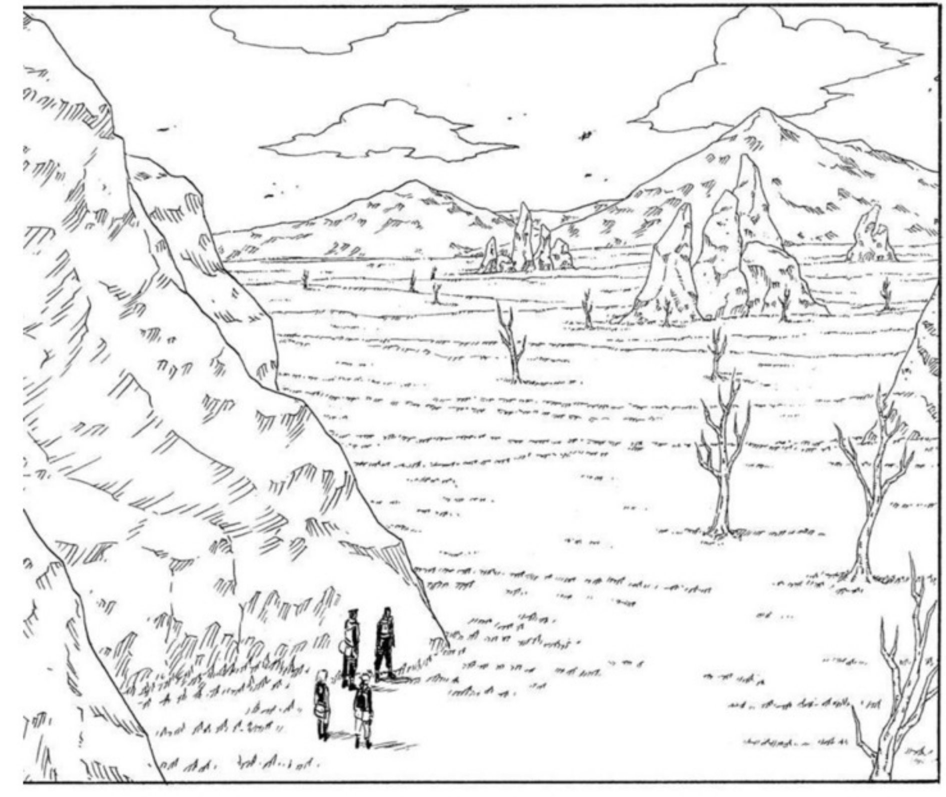
影







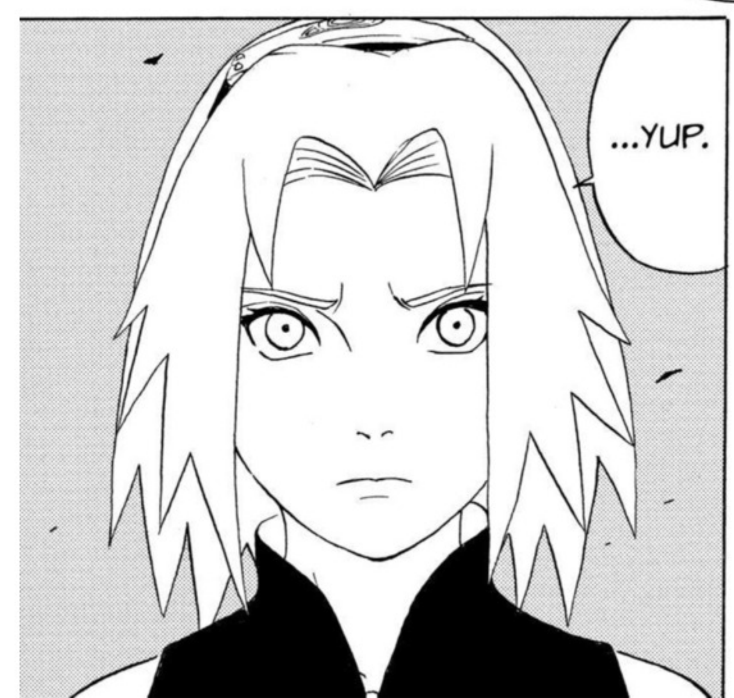

READ THIS WAY






THIS IT...?
THE ENTRANCE IS UNDERNEATH THAT ROCK FORMATION DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF US.


SO UNDER THERE...
...IS SASUKE...


...YUP.

ALL RIGHT ...

...LET'S GO.

WAIT.

!

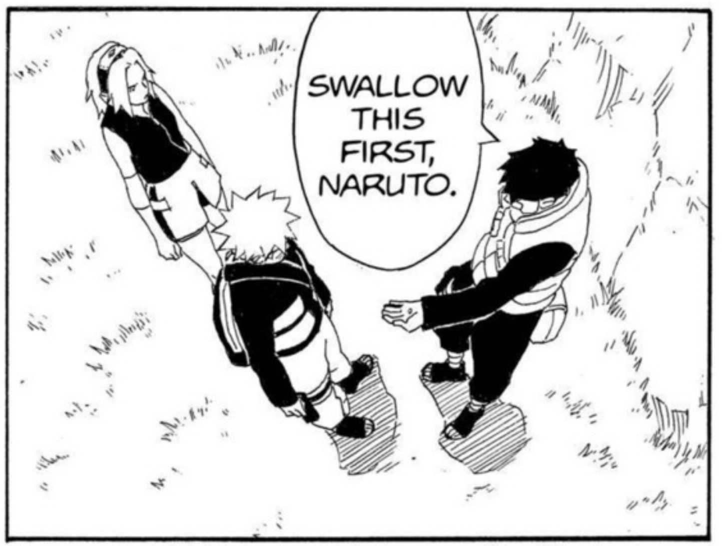
TAP

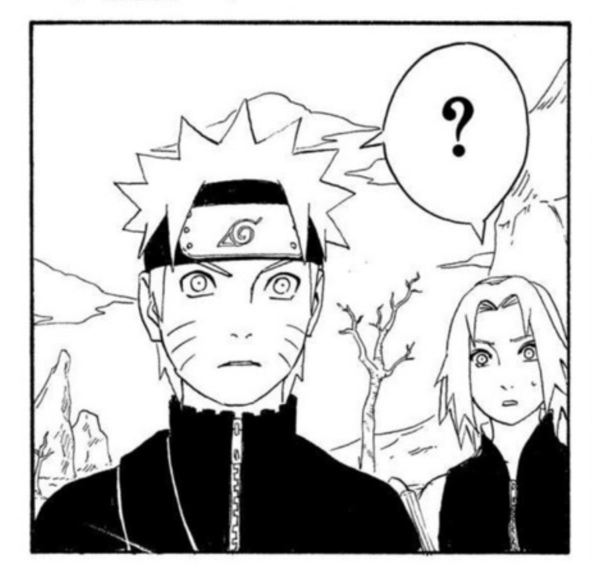
ZWOOP

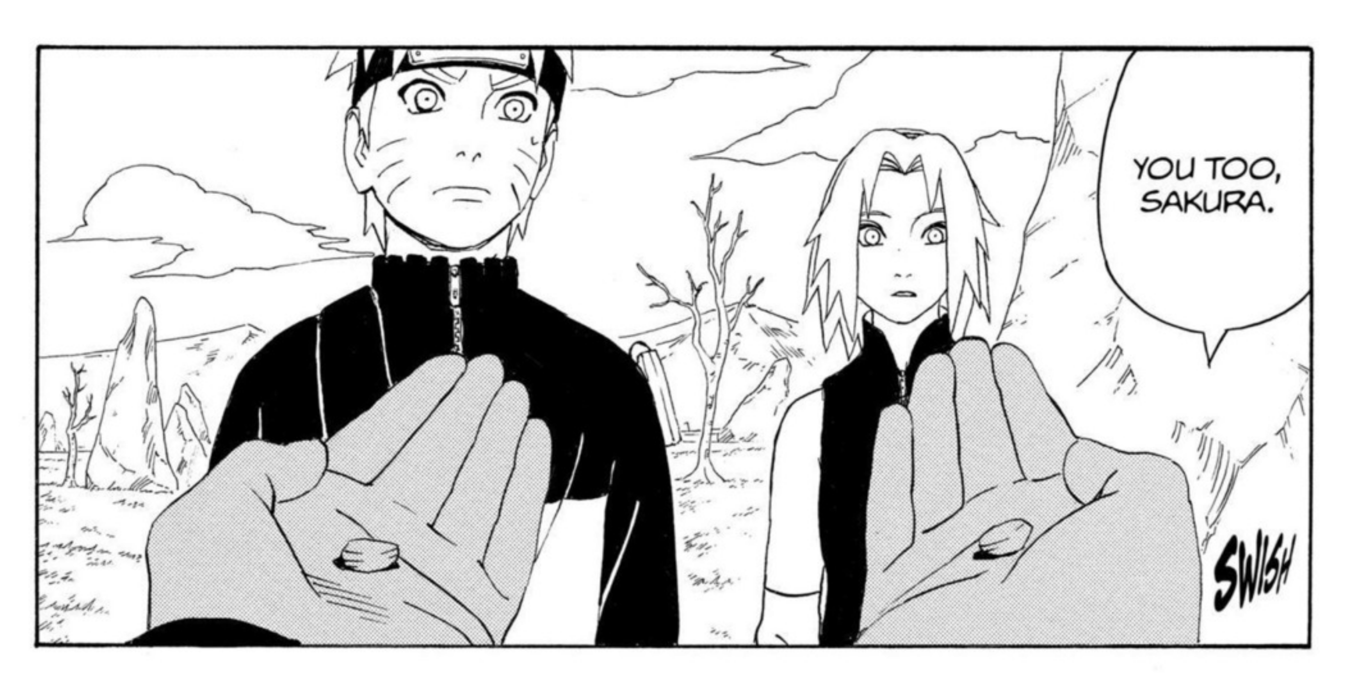
ZWOOP

THUP


READ THIS WAY


SWALLOW THIS FIRST, NARUTO.


?

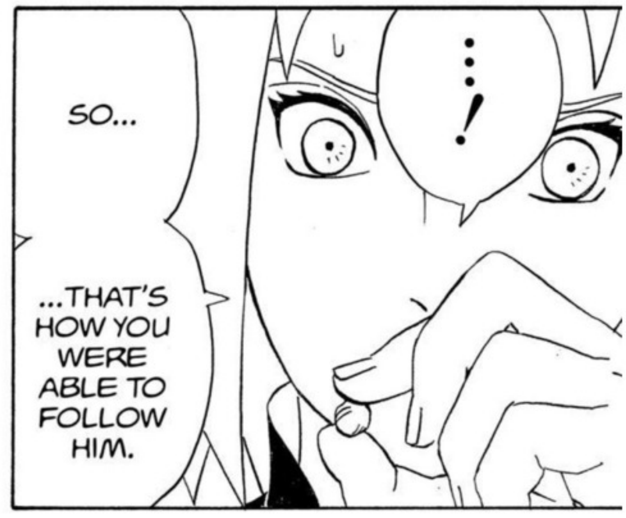

YOU TOO, SAKURA.
SWISH

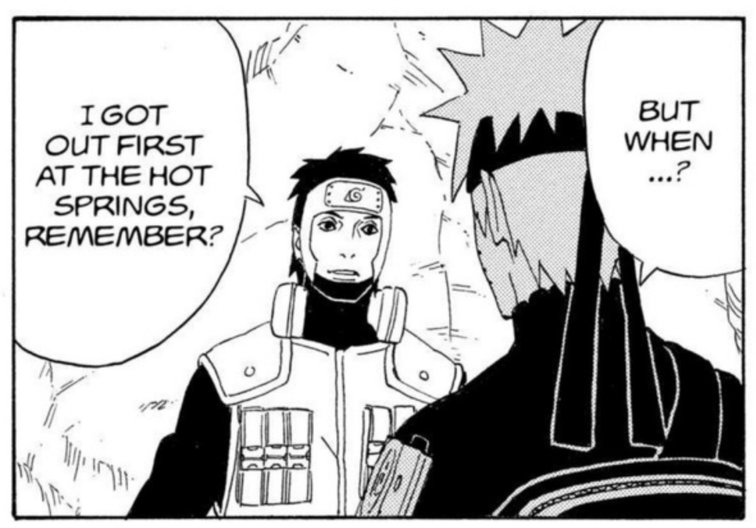

SO THAT IF WE GET SEPARATED...
...I CAN LOCATE YOU RIGHT AWAY.

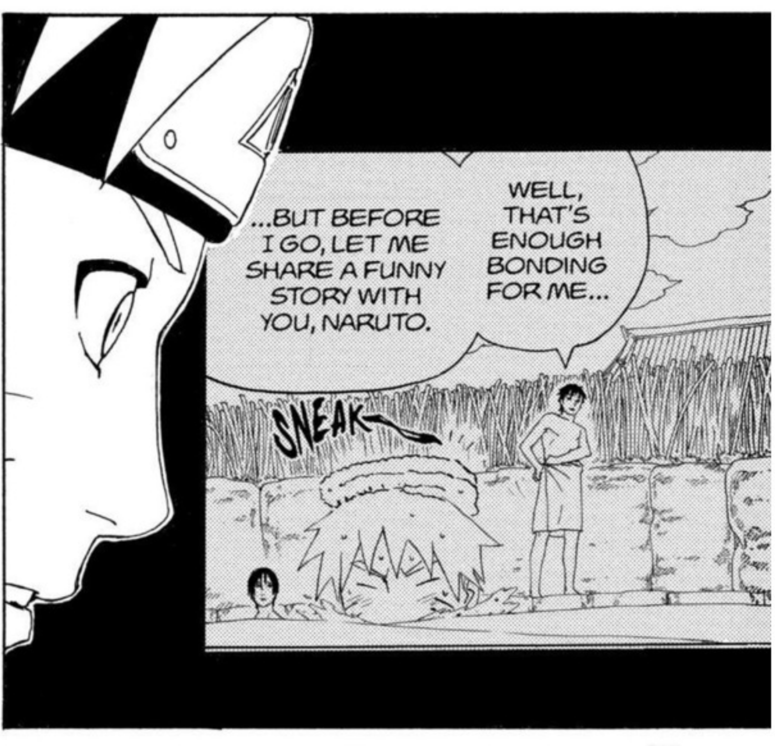

WHAT IS THIS ...?


THESE SEEDS ARE TRANS-MITTERS FOR TRACKING.
IT'S A NINJA TOOL THAT ONLY RESONATES TO MY CHAKRA.


I PLANTED A FEW IN SAI'S CLOTHING... AND HIS MEALS.

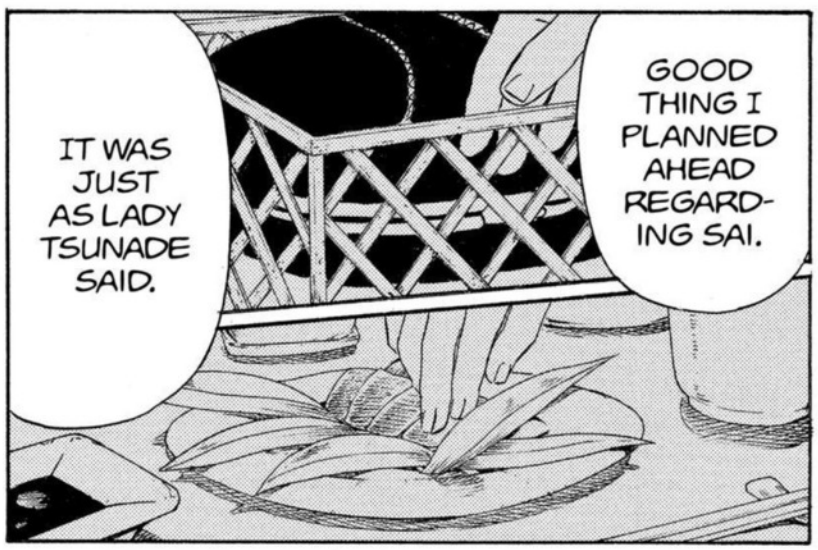

...!
SO...
...THAT'S HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW HIM.


BUT WHEN ...?
I GOT OUT FIRST AT THE HOT SPRINGS, REMEMBER?


WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH BONDING FOR ME...
...BUT BEFORE I GO, LET ME SHARE A FUNNY STORY WITH YOU, NARUTO.
SNEAK

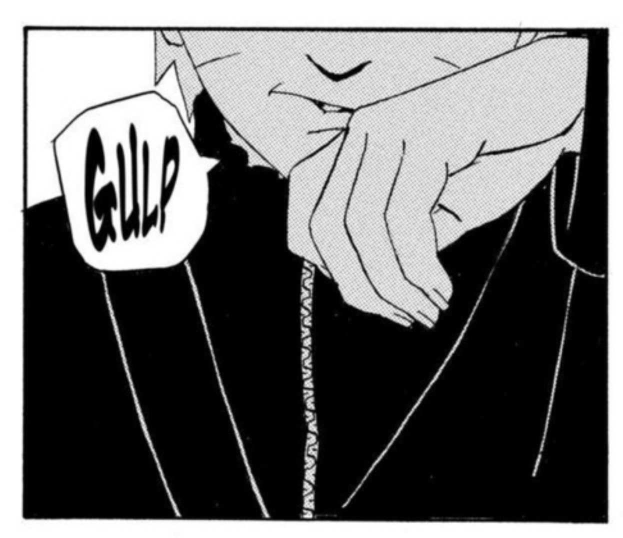

NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHY I SPLURGED FOR THOSE LUXURIES...
...THE HOT SPRINGS, THE FINE DINING... OUT OF MY OWN POCKET?


READ
THIS
WAY

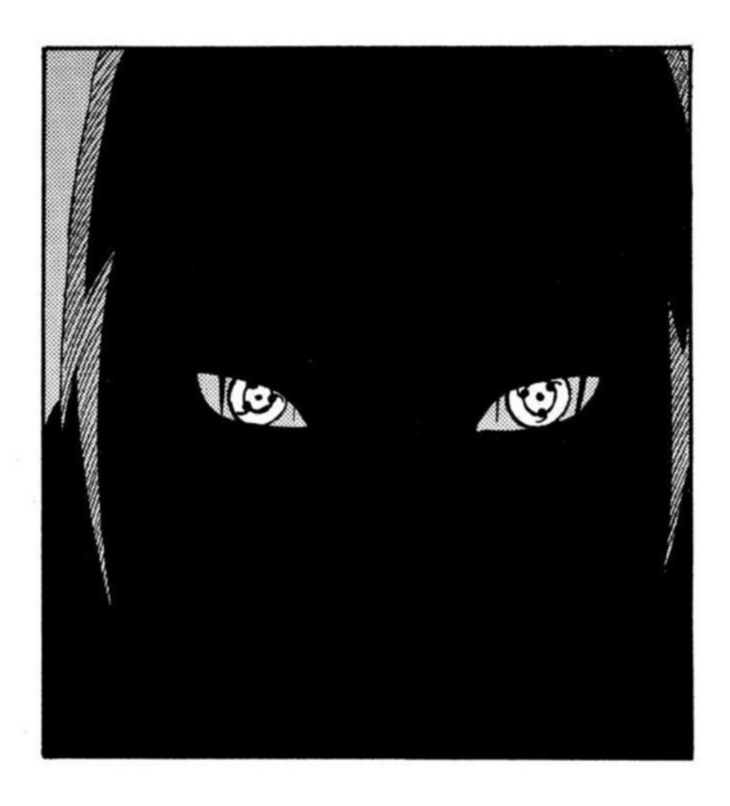

GOOD THING I PLANNED AHEAD REGARDING SAI.
IT WAS JUST AS LADY TSUNADE SAID.


BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THE PAST...



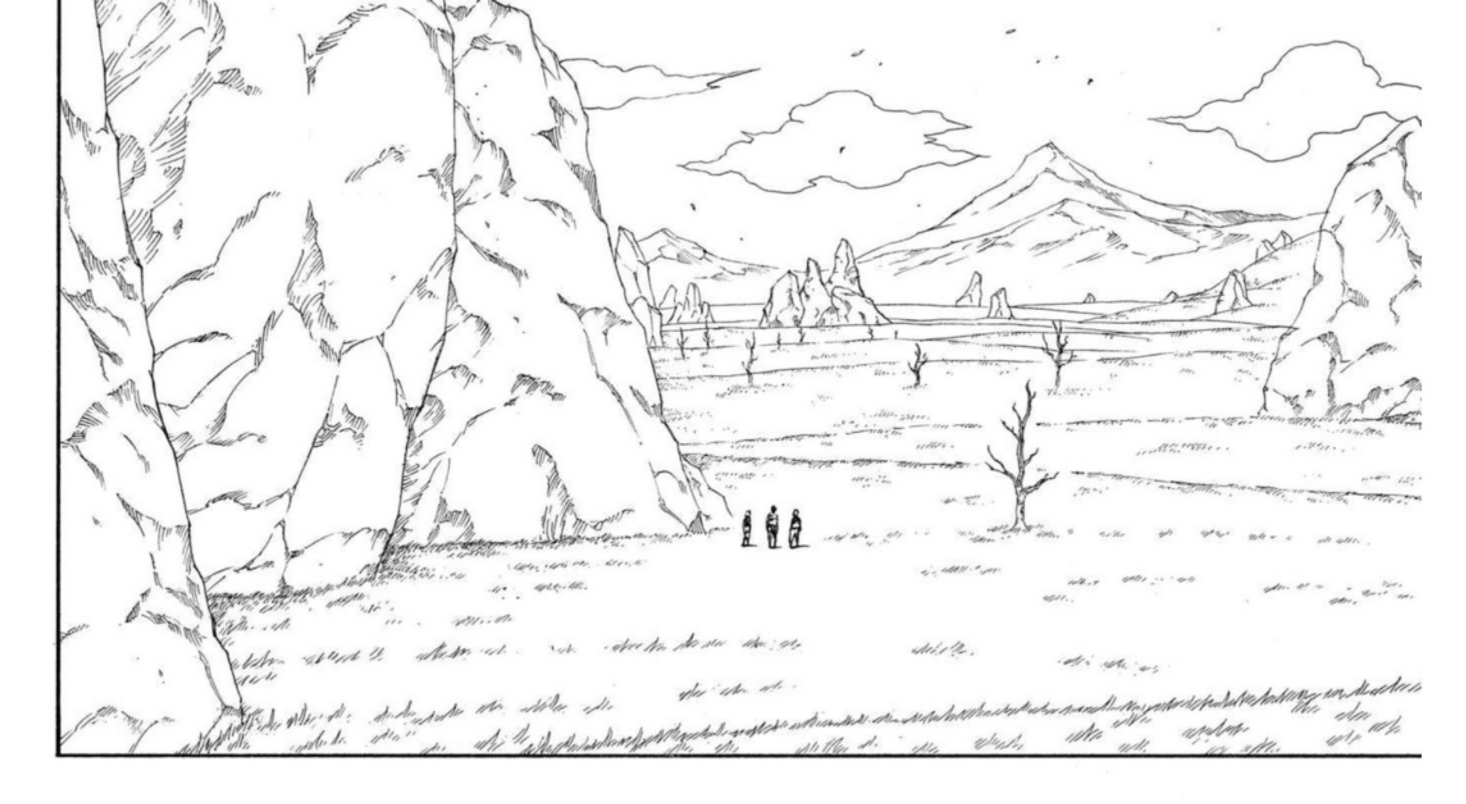

GULP

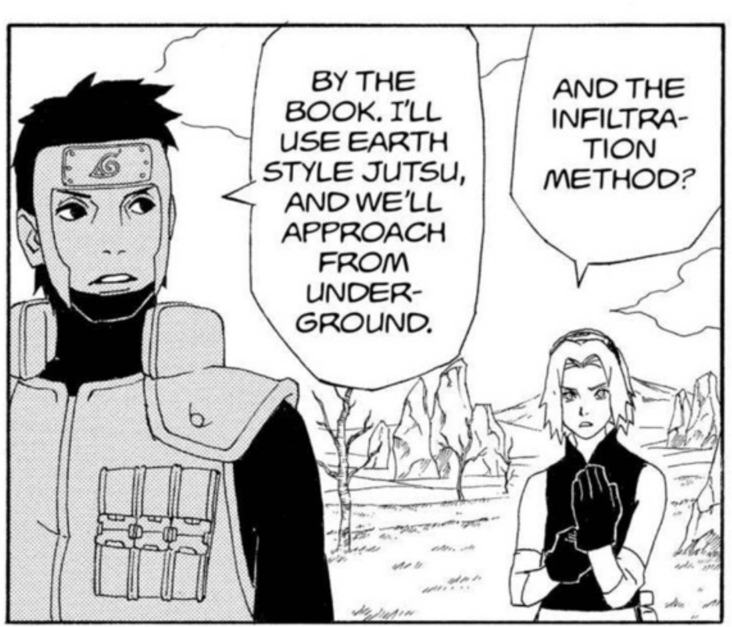

FOCUS ON WHAT'S AHEAD.
READY, YOU TWO?
SASUKE... HERE WE COME!
YES, SIR!



Number 302: Infiltration...!!





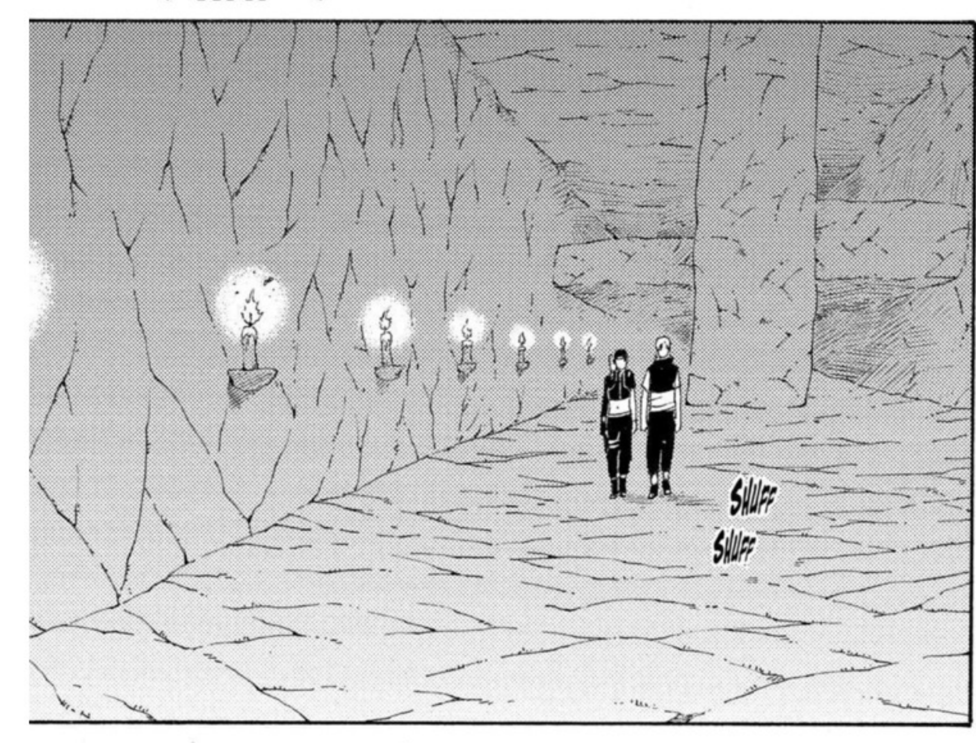

AND THE INFILTRATION METHOD?
BY THE BOOK. I'LL USE EARTH STYLE JUTSU, AND WE'LL APPROACH FROM UNDERGROUND.

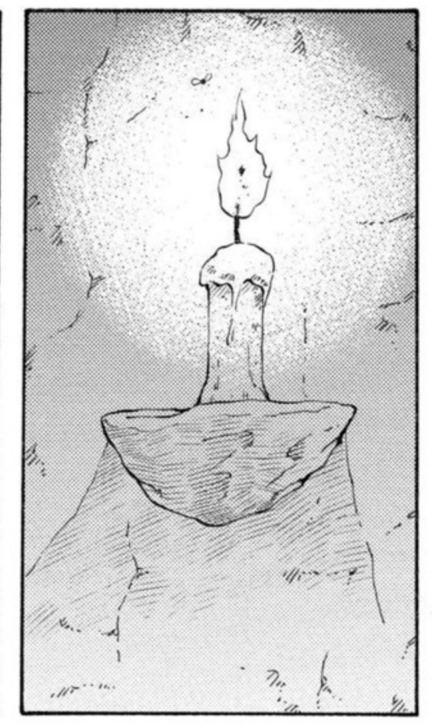

OUR ORDER OF INFILTRATION WILL BE...
...ME FIRST, THEN SAKURA, AND NARUTO LAST.


...

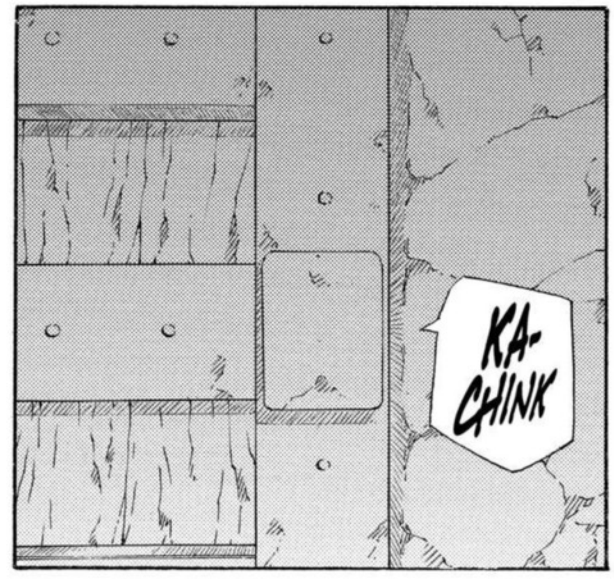

WE'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU...
...SASUKE...


READ
THIS
WAY


SHUFF
SHUFF

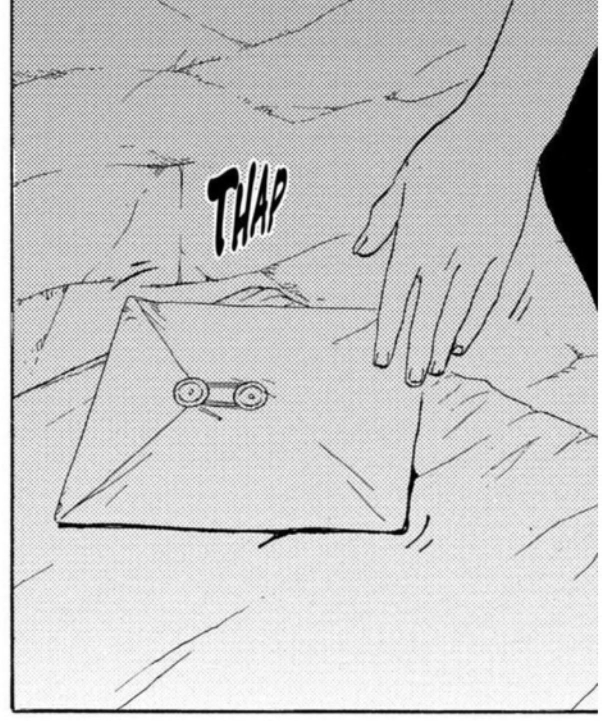


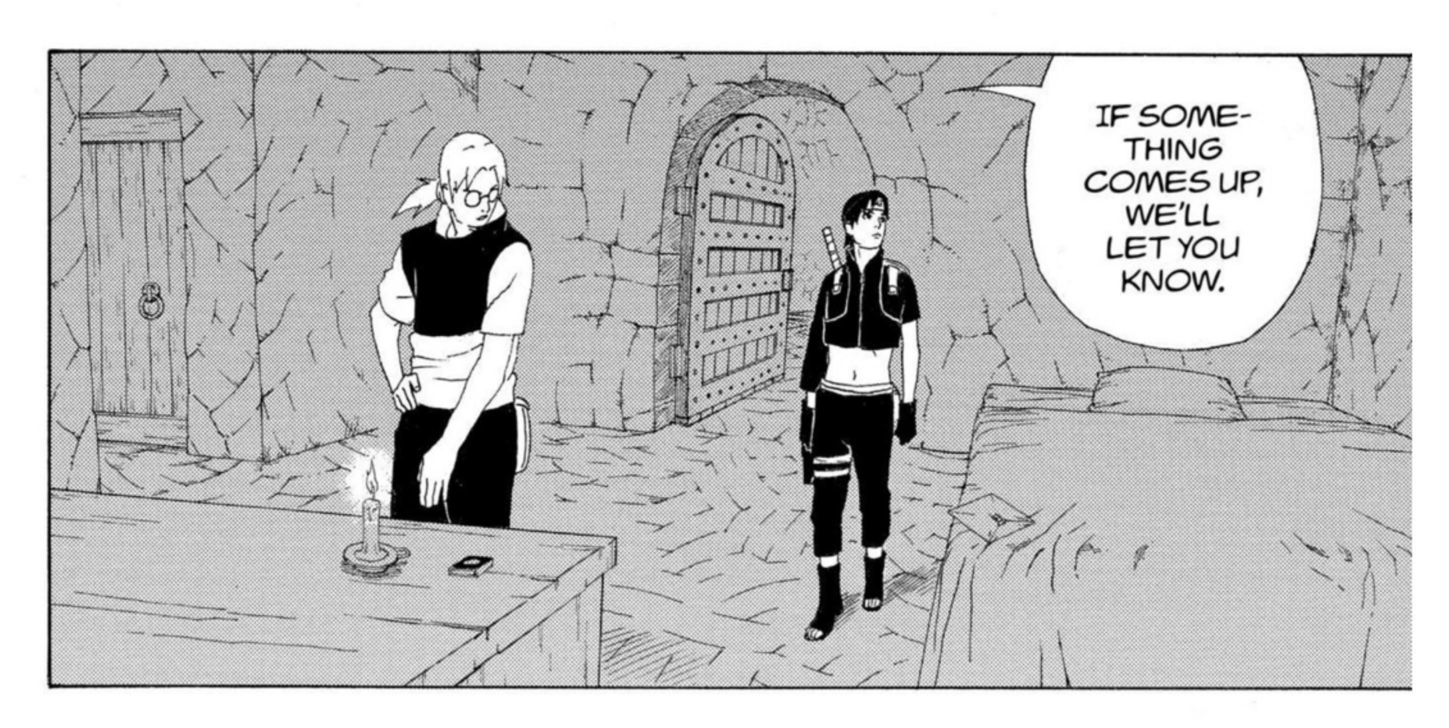

CREAK


KA-
CHINK


HERE YOU GO...


UNTIL YOU'RE NEEDED, YOU'LL REMAIN HERE. QUIETLY.
THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM.
FOOSH


THAP

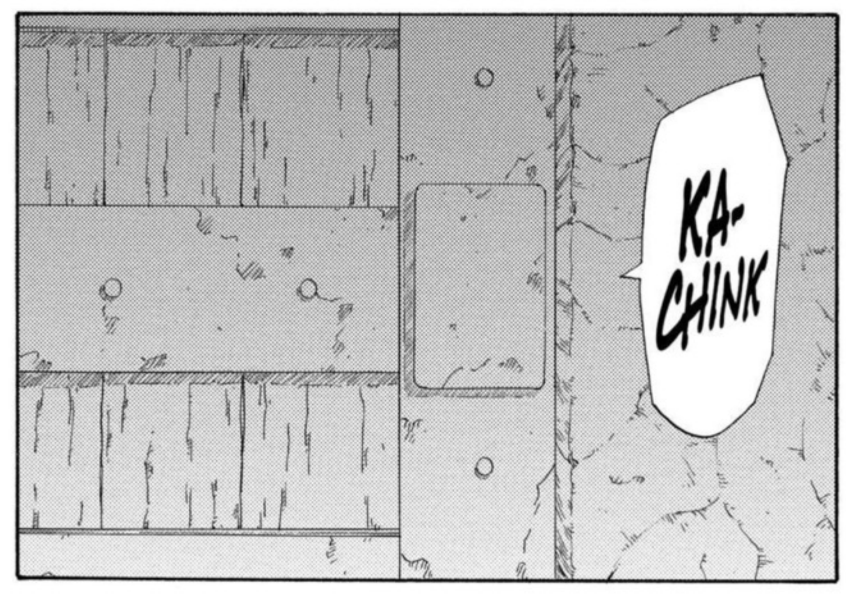

IF SOME-THING COMES UP, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW.

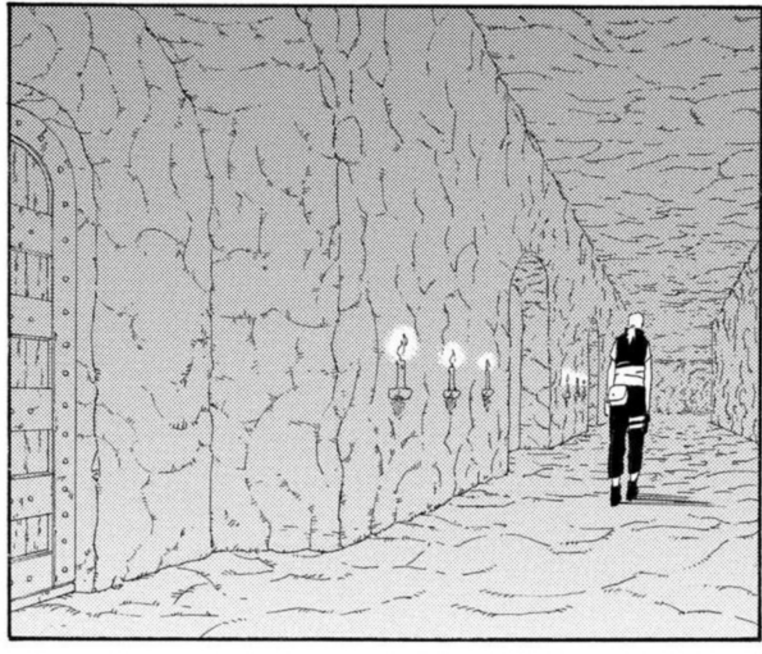

SORRY, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LOCK YOU IN.
BECAUSE YOU'RE... WELL...
...YOU KNOW...


CREAK
...


READ THIS WAY


...


KA-CHINK




...

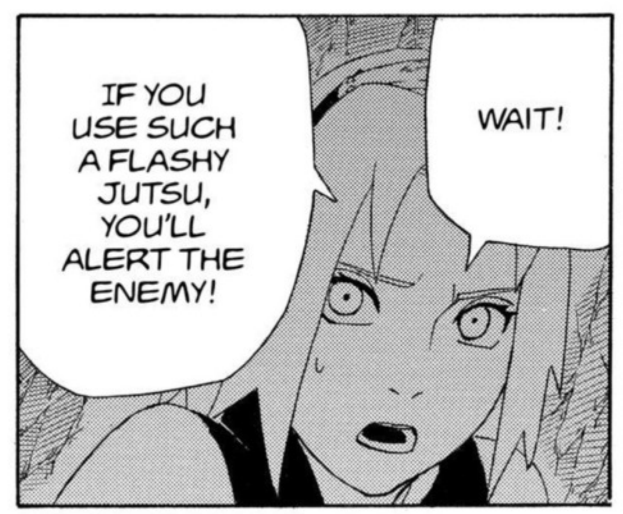

HUP





LOOKS LIKE THE HIDEOUT'S COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY ROCK...





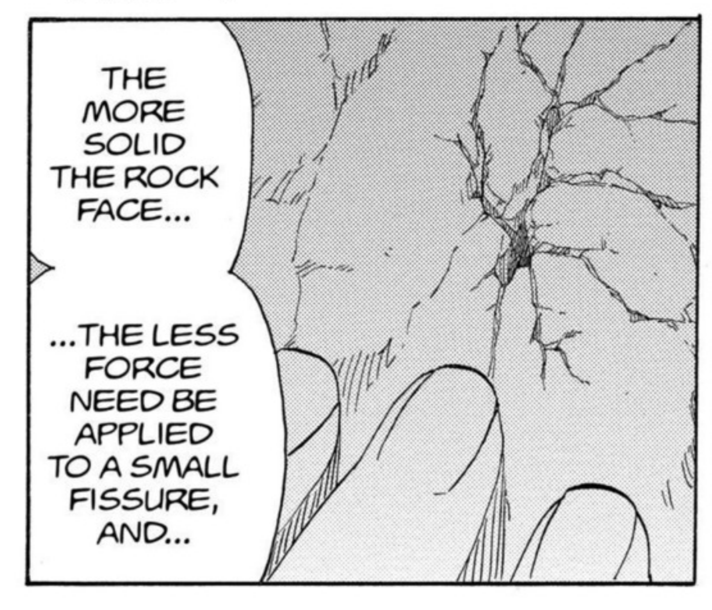


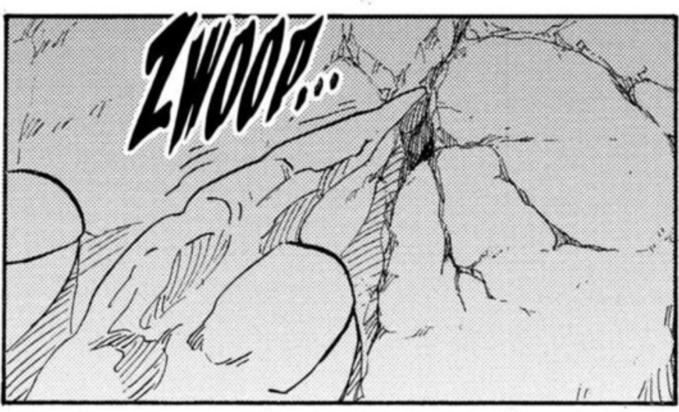


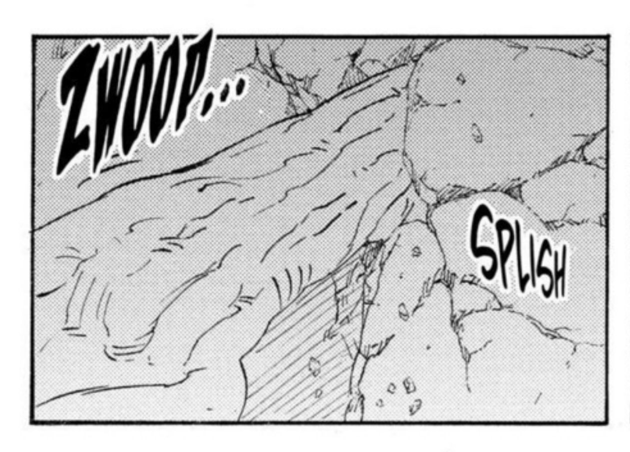



READ
THIS
WAY


FOUND IT...
?

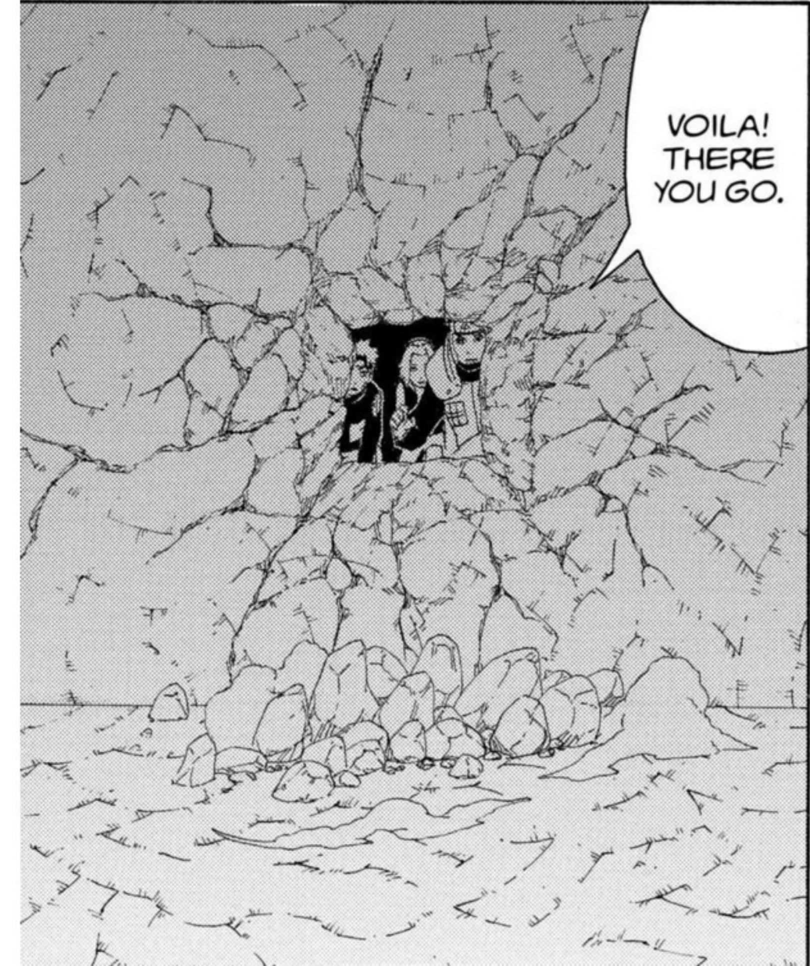

THE MORE SOLID THE ROCK FACE...
...THE LESS FORCE NEED BE APPLIED TO A SMALL FISSURE, AND...


ZWOOP...


SPLISH
ZWOOP...


CRACK CRACK CRACK
ZWOOP...


CLACK CLACK CLACK

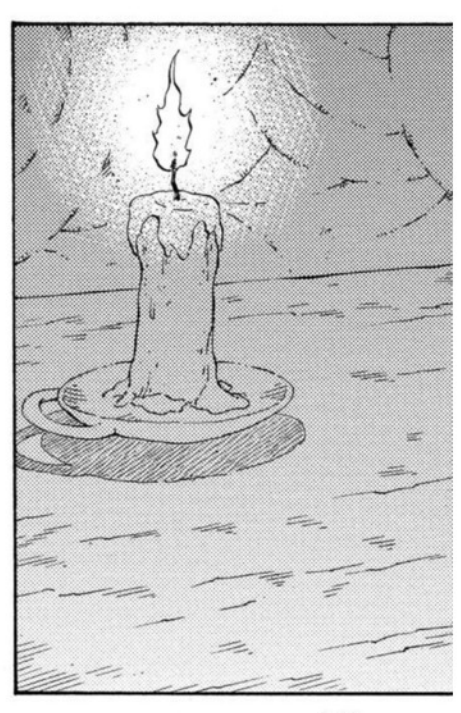

VOILA! THERE YOU GO.

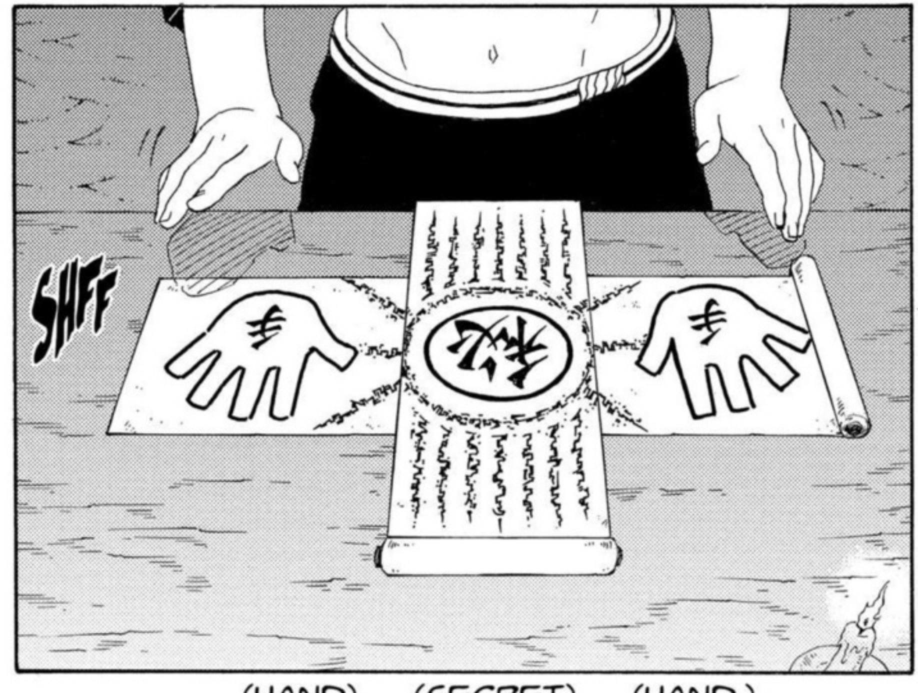








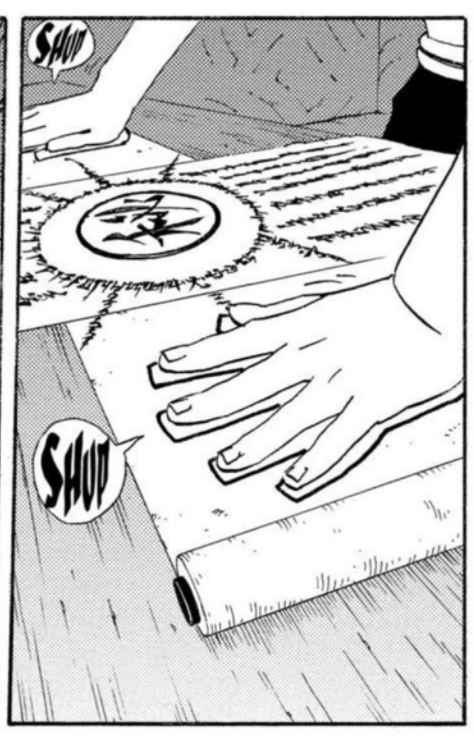




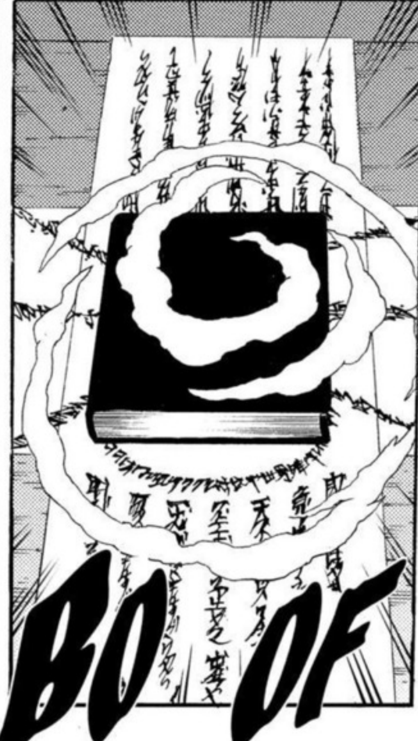
(HAND) (SECRET) (HAND)



READ
THIS
WAY



SHUP
SHUP

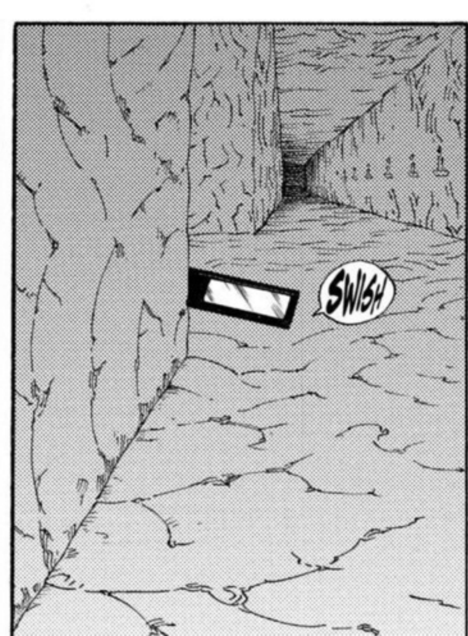


BOOF



FLIP
FLIP
FLIP

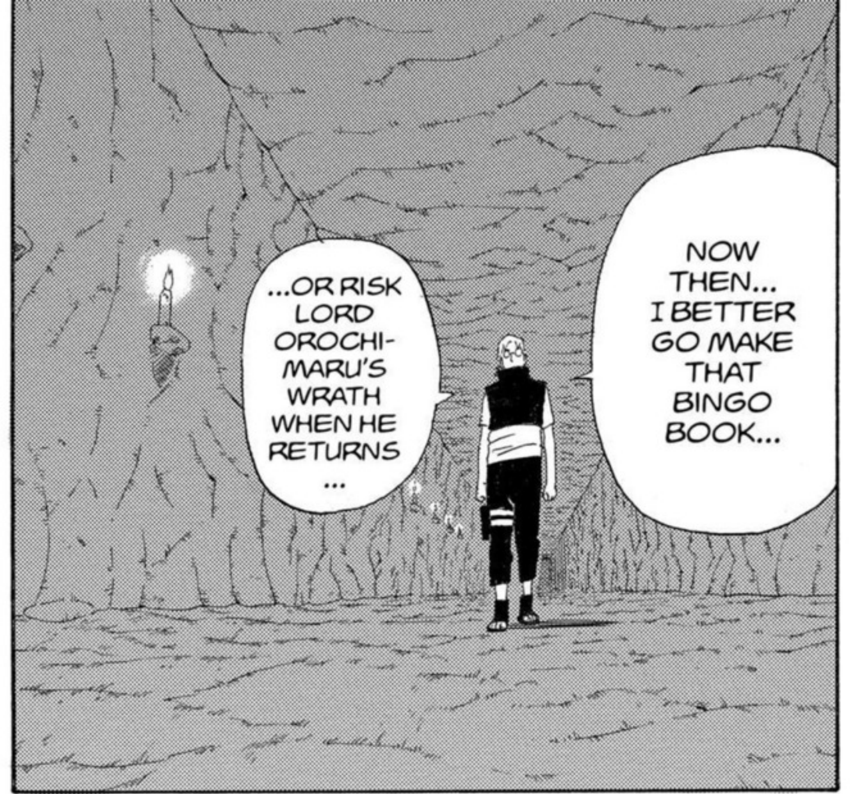


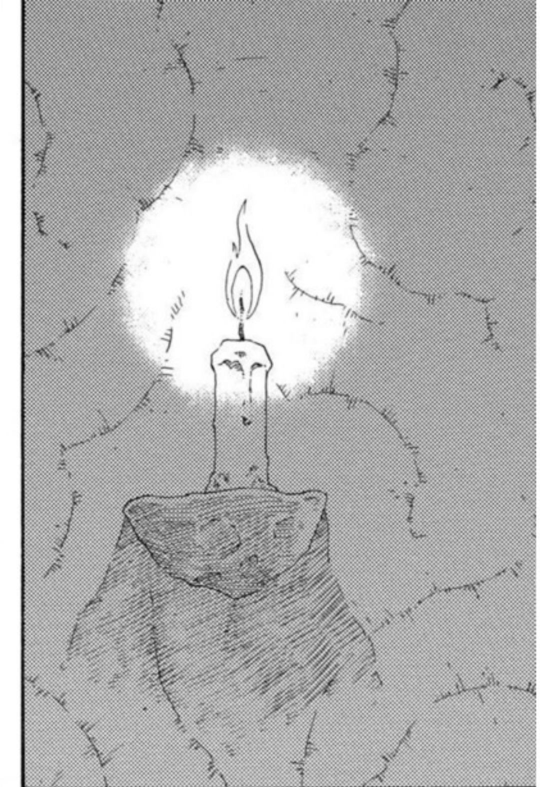


SWISH



ALL CLEAR... KEEP MOVING...

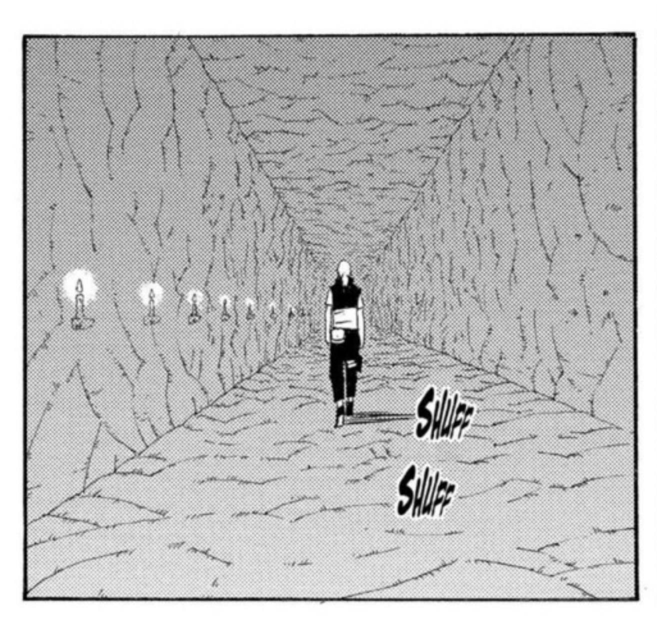

...OR RISK LORD OROCHI-MARU'S WRATH WHEN HE RETURNS...
NOW THEN... I BETTER GO MAKE THAT BINGO BOOK...

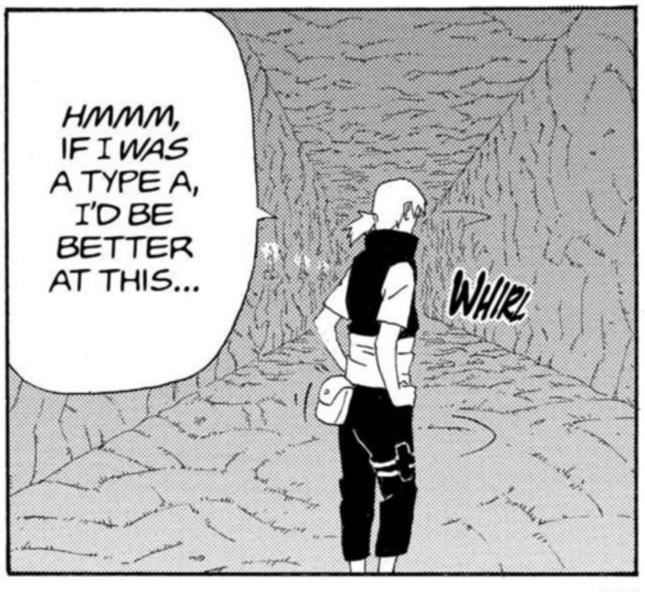





...


!

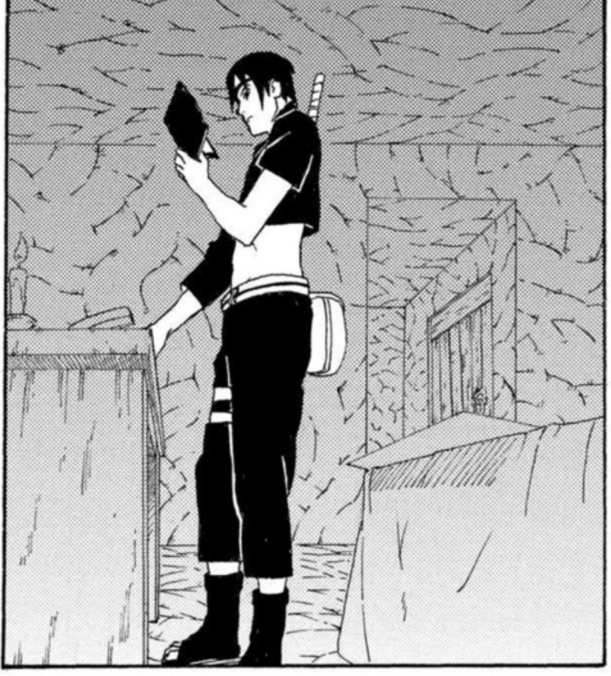

SHUFF
SHUFF


HMMM, IF I WAS A TYPE A, I'D BE BETTER AT THIS...
WHIRL

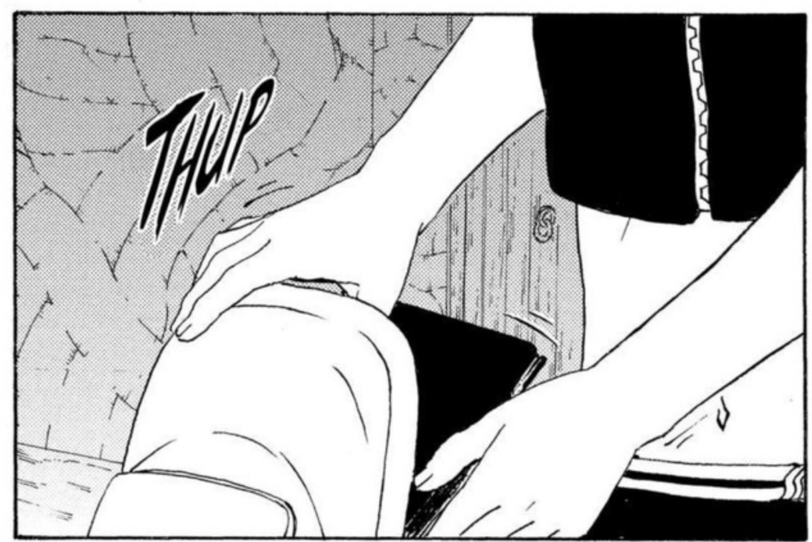

READ
THIS
WAY

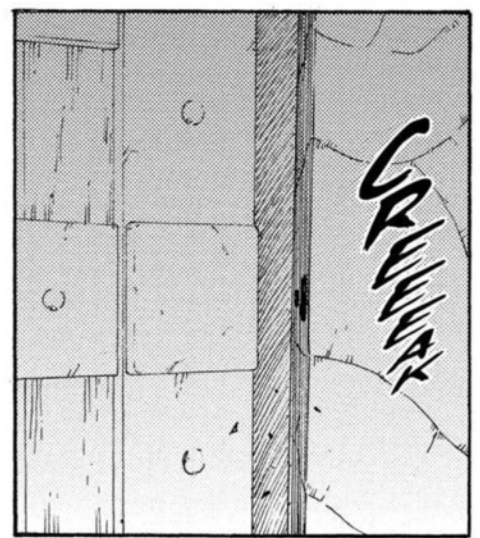

TROT


JUST A LITTLE FURTHER.
HOOOH




KA-CHINK


THUP

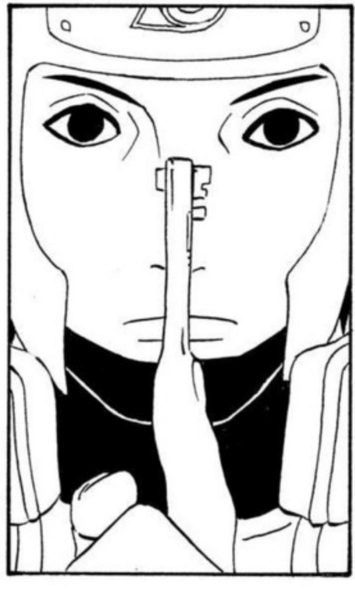

CREEEAK

THERE YOU ARE.



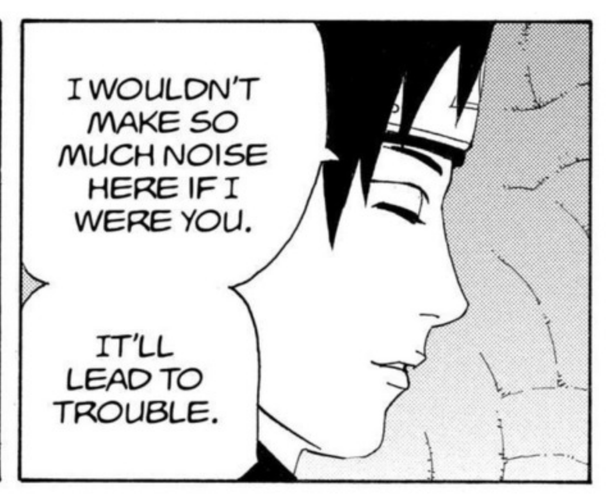








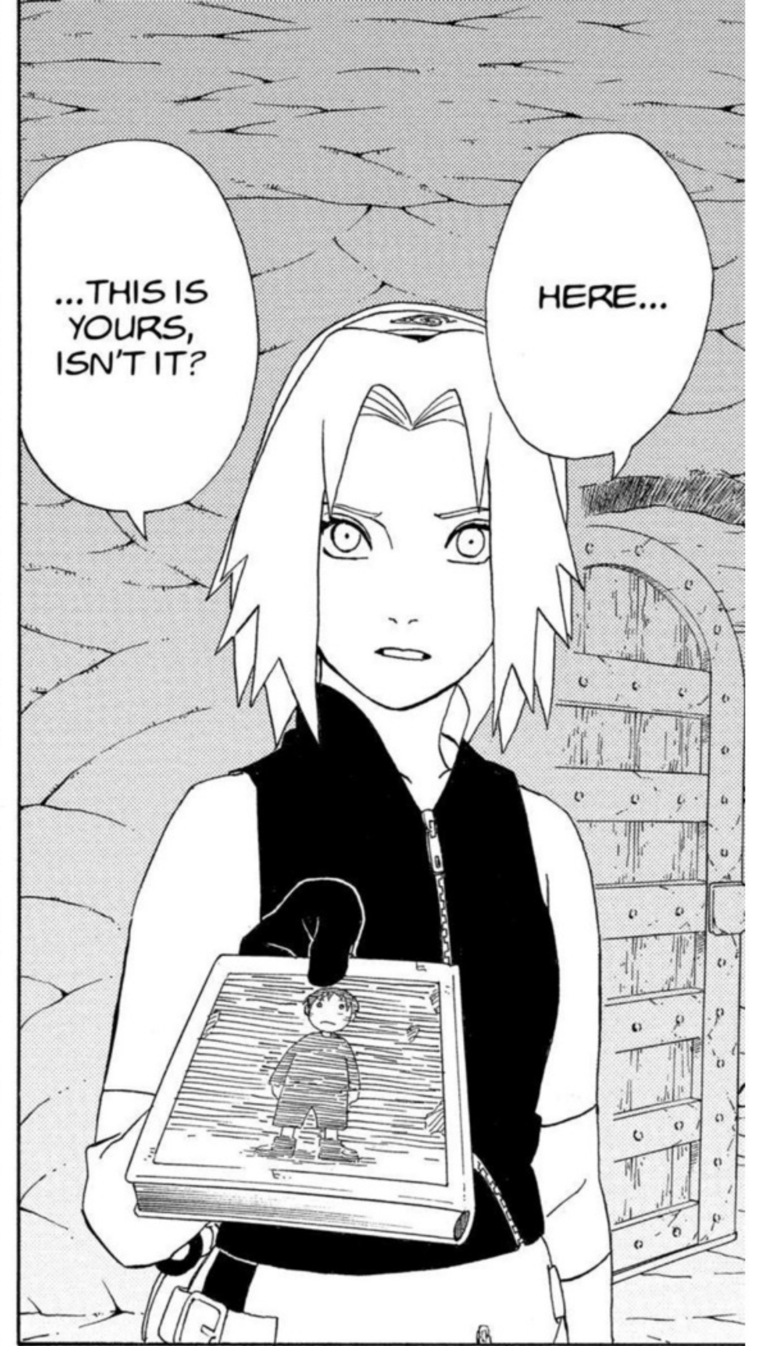

THAP
YEAH, JERK! WHY'D YOU BETRAY US?!!
...


I WOULDN'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE HERE IF I WERE YOU.
IT'LL LEAD TO TROUBLE.


YOU LOUSY ...!
NARUTO!


...

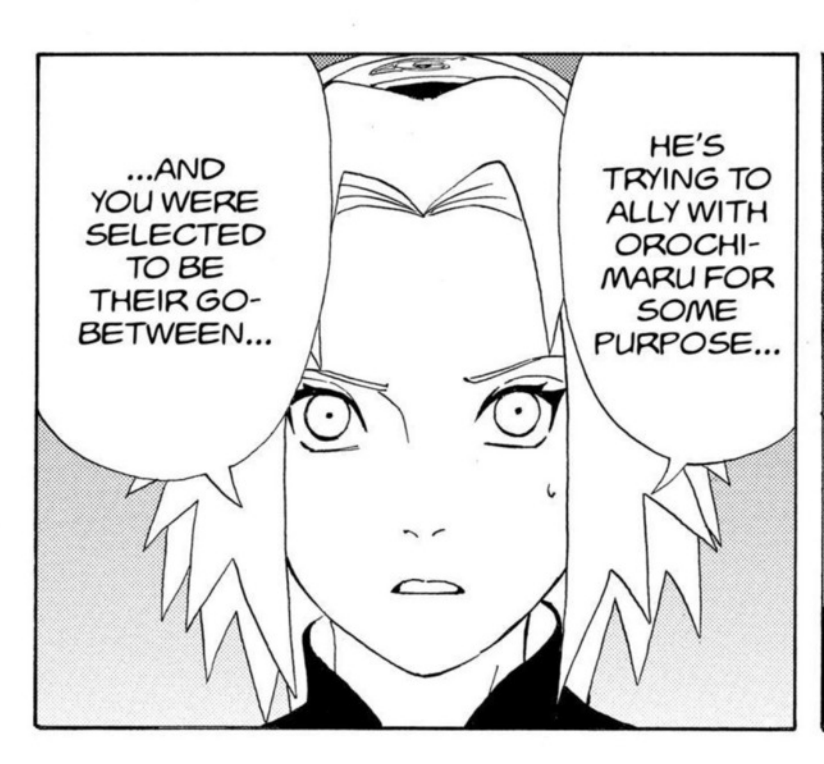

WHAT-EVER!
SHWOP


HERE...
...THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T IT?


...


THANKS.
FAP

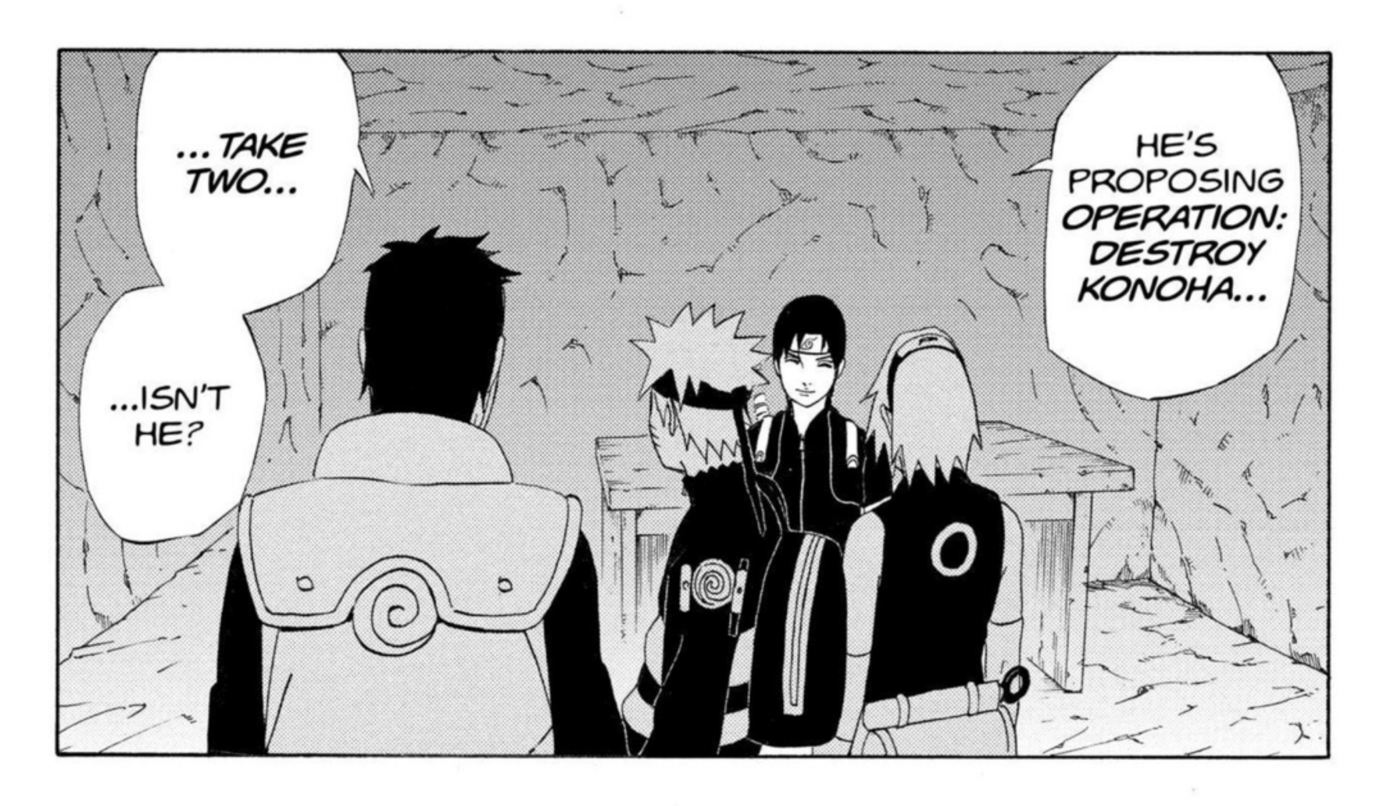

DANZO GAVE YOU ORDERS, DIDN'T HE...?


HE'S TRYING TO ALLY WITH OROCHI-MARU FOR SOME PURPOSE...
...AND YOU WERE SELECTED TO BE THEIR GO-BETWEEN...


READ THIS WAY


...SO WHAT'S HE PLOTTING?


...


HE'S PROPOSING OPERATION: DESTROY KONOHA...
...TAKE TWO...
...ISN'T HE?


...





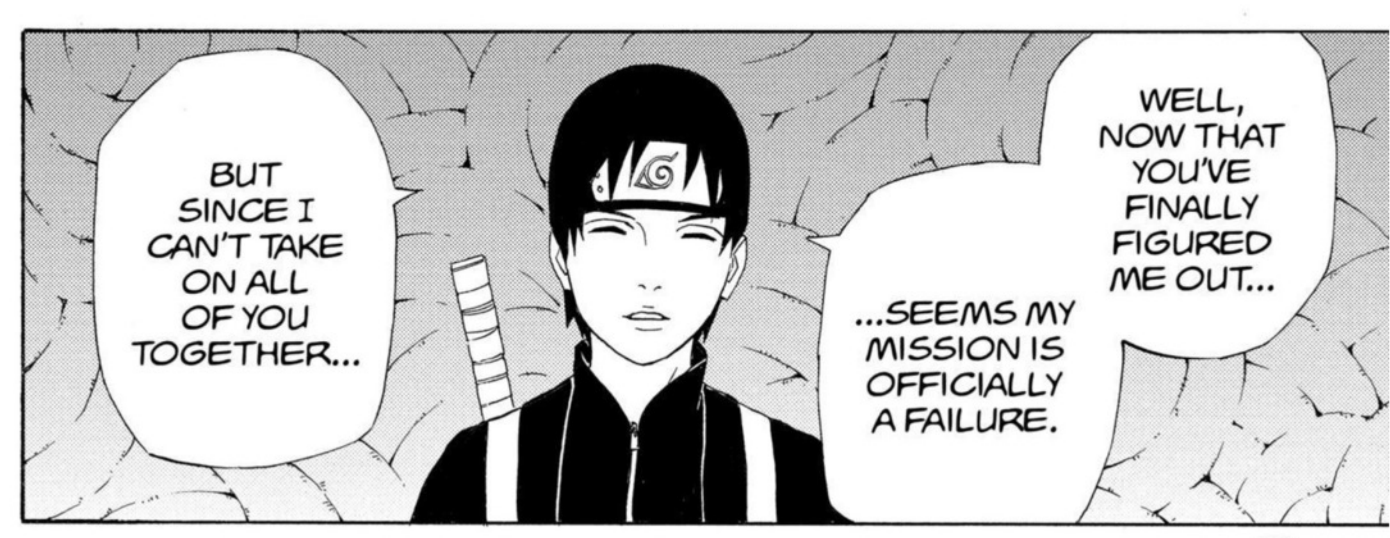


NO... YOU'RE...

STOP SMILING! I KNOW YOU'RE JUST ***FAKING*** IT!

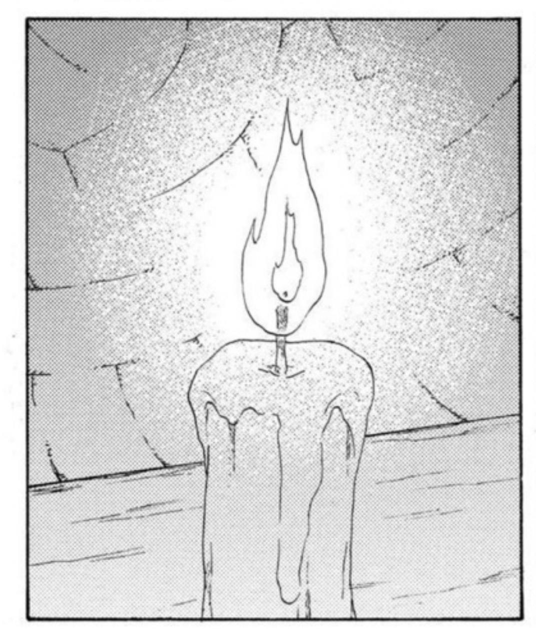
EVERY-THING YOU SAY IS NOTHING BUT A BIG, FAT ***LIE!***



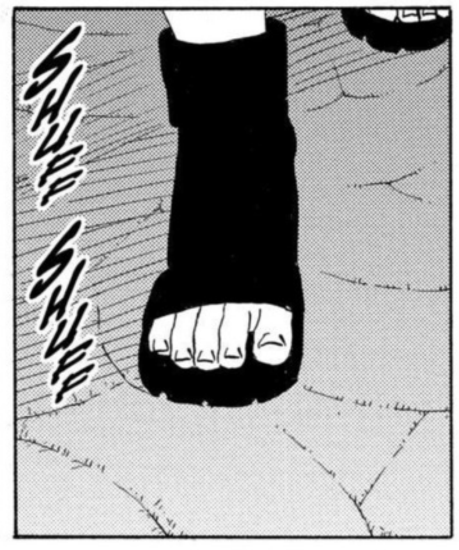



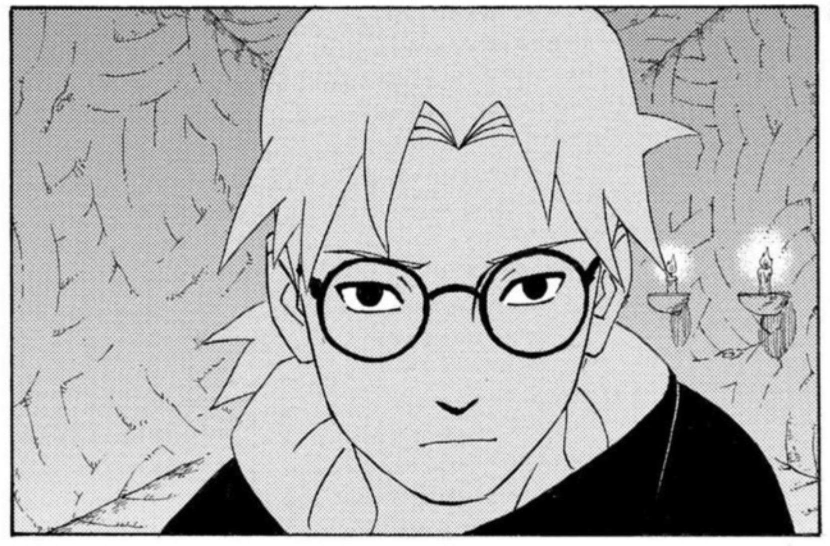

READ THIS WAY


...AND SINCE YOU'VE GUESSED SO MUCH ALREADY...
...THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING THE TRUTH ANY LONGER.



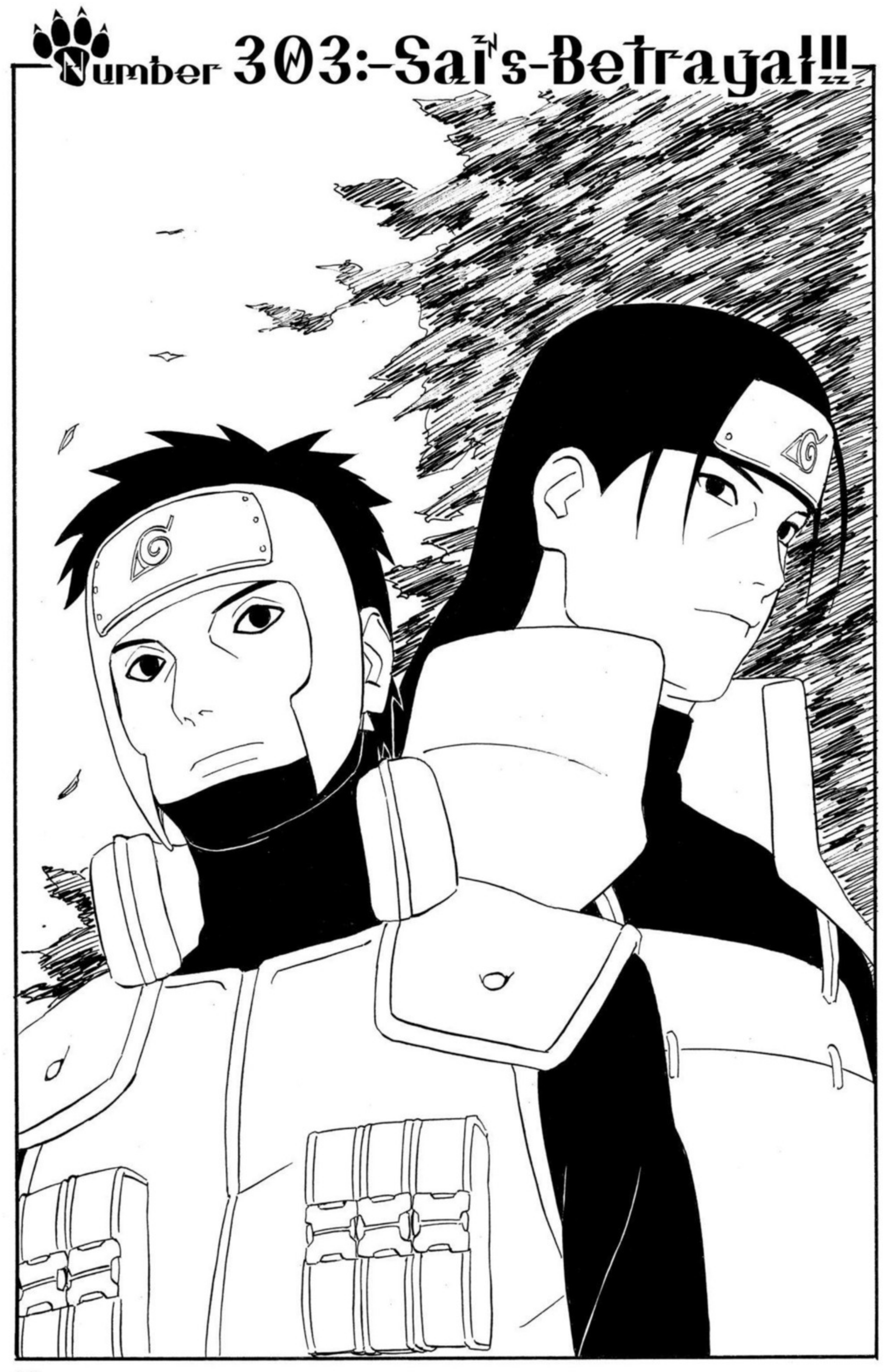

YOU ARE CORRECT.
THE PLAN WAS TO GET RID OF KONOHA AS WE KNOW IT.

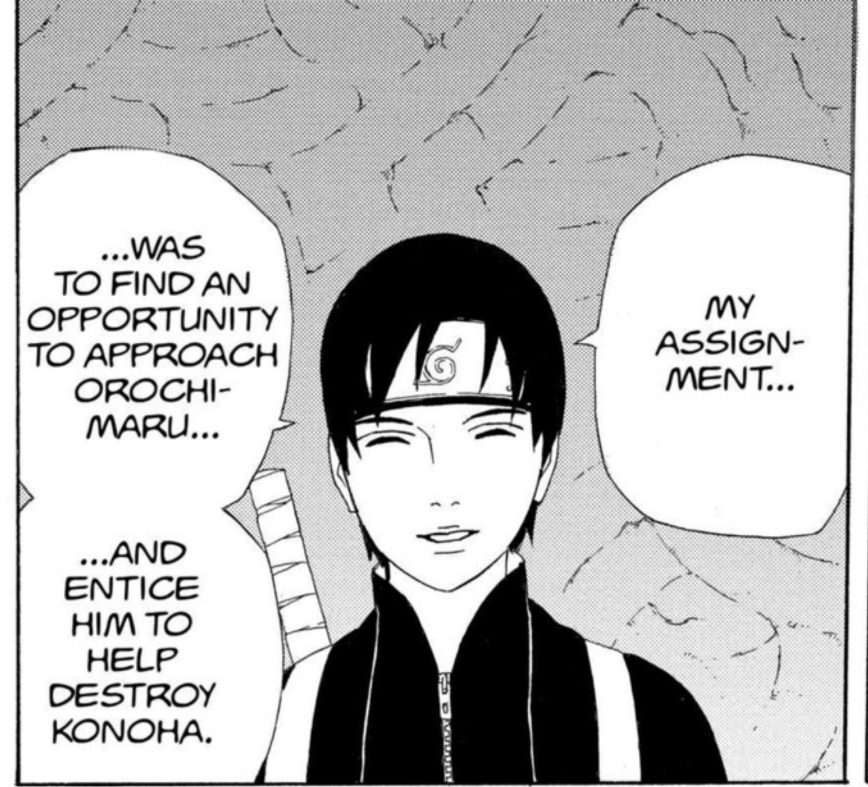

SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF



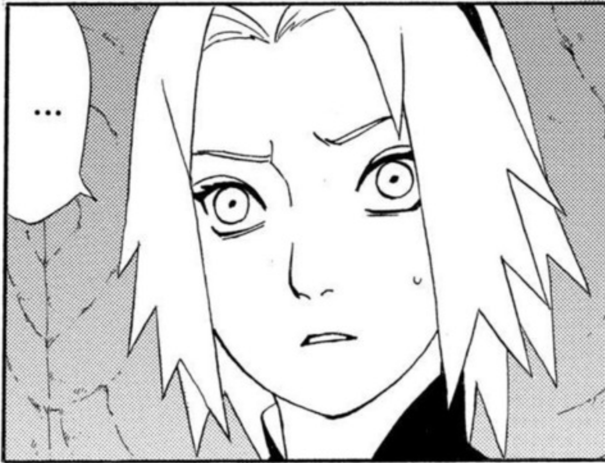

NARUTO

Number 303: Sai's Betrayal!!

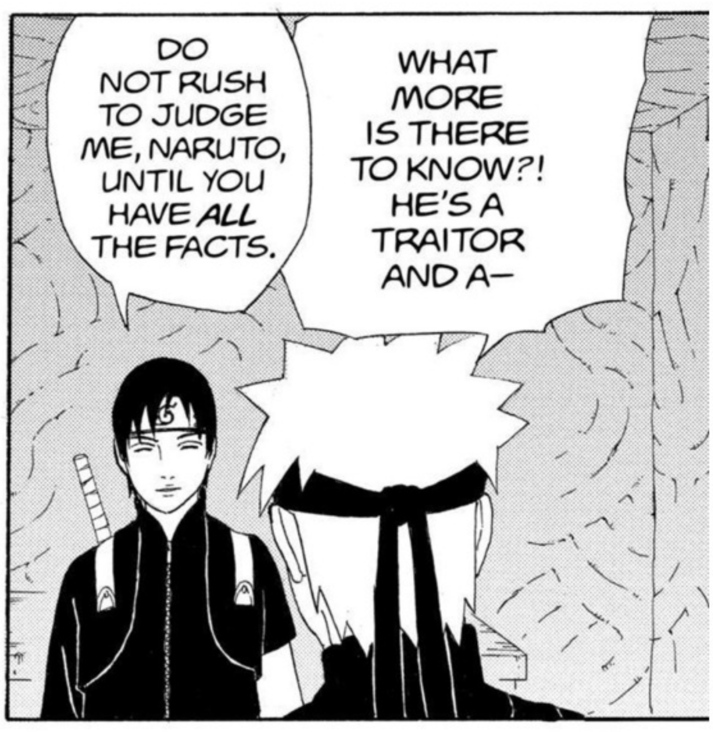


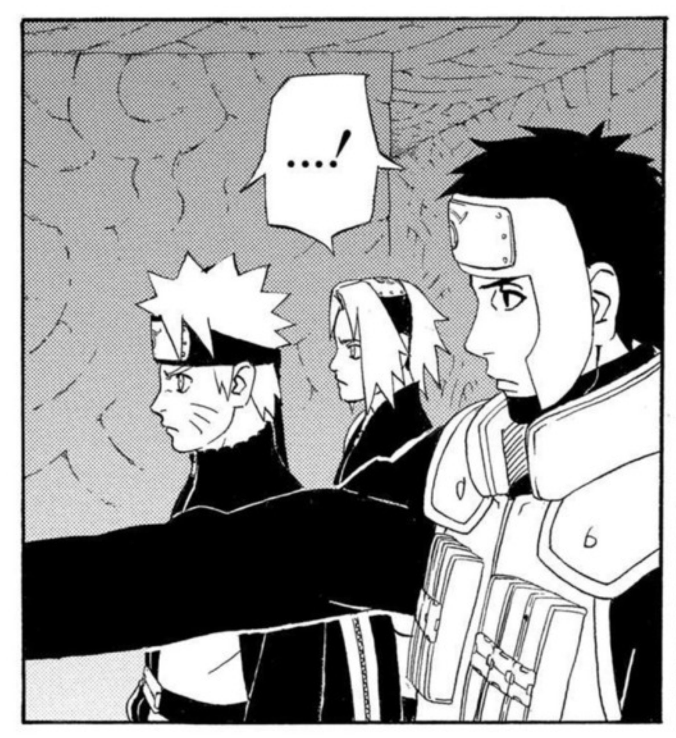

MY ASSIGNMENT...
...WAS TO FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPROACH OROCHIMARU...
...AND ENTICE HIM TO HELP DESTROY KONOHA.


WHAT ...?!


...

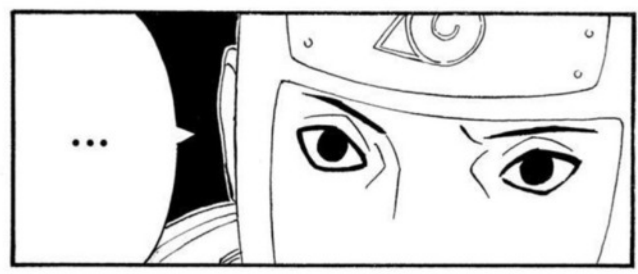

KEEP TALKING.
I WANT ALL THE DETAILS.

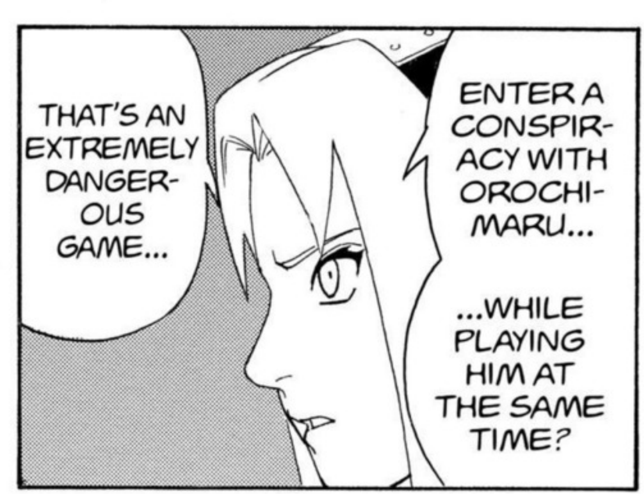

WHAT MORE IS THERE TO KNOW?! HE'S A TRAITOR AND A—
DO NOT RUSH TO JUDGE ME, NARUTO, UNTIL YOU HAVE ALL THE FACTS.


...!

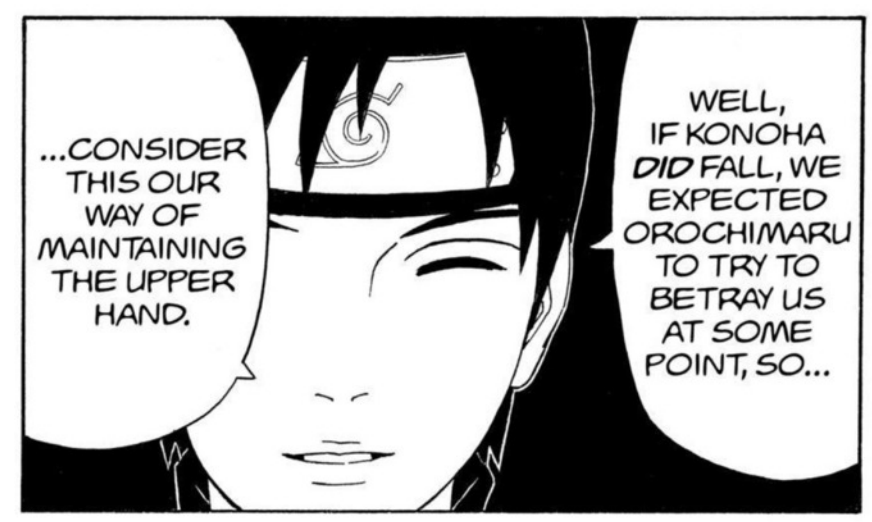

READ THIS WAY


I WAS ALSO ORDERED TO SECRETLY REPORT BACK OROCHI-MARU'S ACTIVITIES TO LORD DANZO...
IN SHORT, TO ACT AS HIS SPY.


...

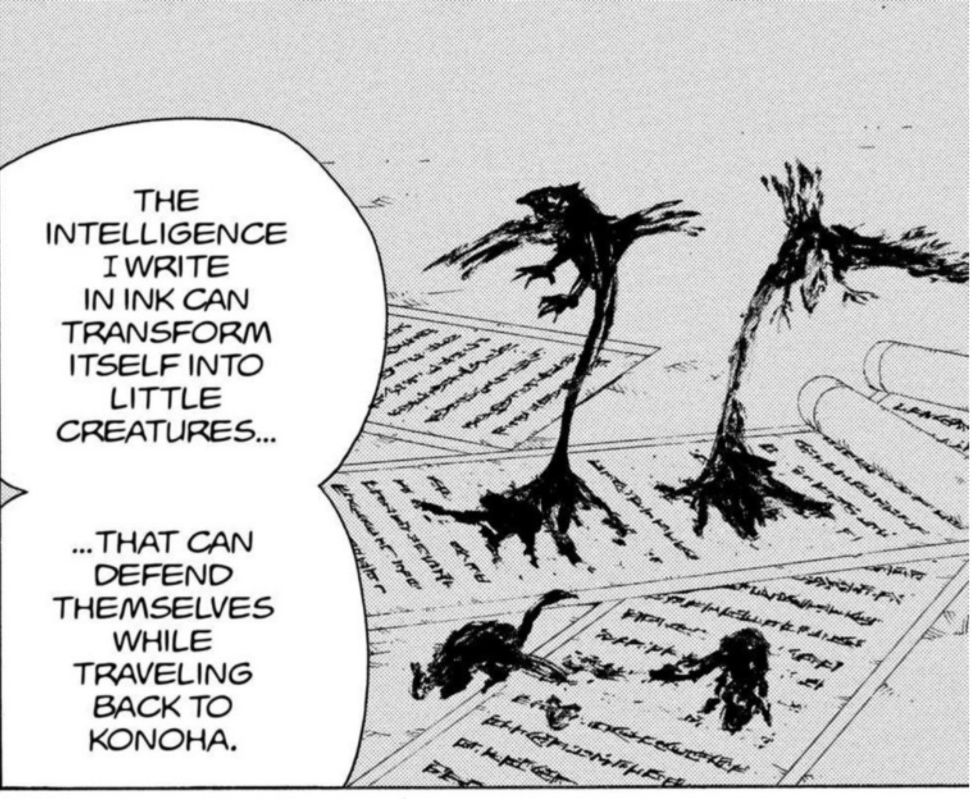

ENTER A CONSPIR-ACY WITH OROCHI-MARU...
...WHILE PLAYING HIM AT THE SAME TIME?
THAT'S AN EXTREMELY DANGER-OUS GAME...


...

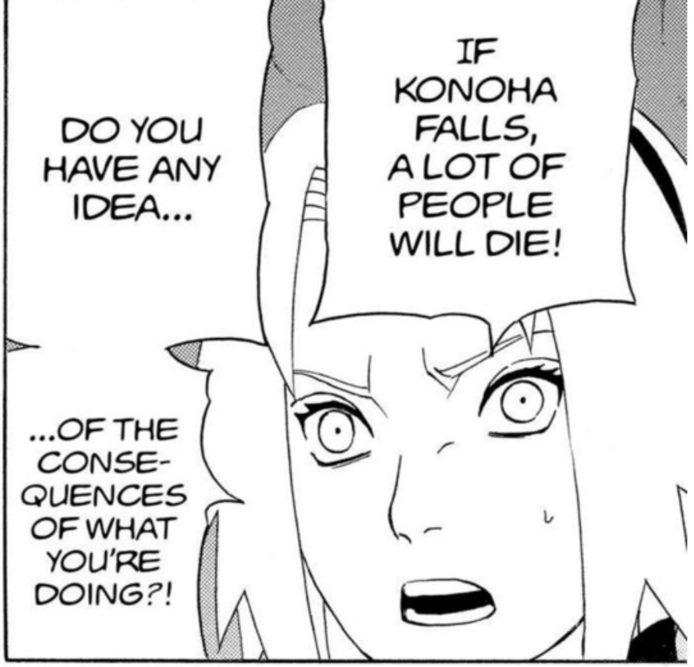

WELL, IF KONOHA DID FALL, WE EXPECTED OROCHIMARU TO TRY TO BETRAY US AT SOME POINT, SO...
...CONSIDER THIS OUR WAY OF MAINTAINING THE UPPER HAND.


SO DANZO WANTS KONOHA FOR HIMSELF.
AND YOU WERE SENT IN, ALONE, TO SET ALL THIS IN MOTION ...


I WAS SPECIFI-CALLY CHOSEN FOR THIS MISSION BECAUSE OF MY ABILITIES.

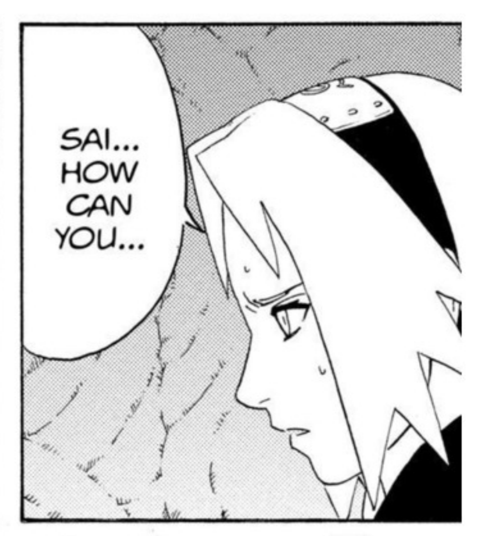

THE INTELLIGENCE I WRITE IN INK CAN TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO LITTLE CREATURES...
...THAT CAN DEFEND THEMSELVES WHILE TRAVELING BACK TO KONOHA.


...!


IF KONOHA FALLS, A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL DIE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...
...OF THE CONSE-QUENCES OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING?!


...WELL ...
I'M JUST FOLLOW-ING ORDERS.

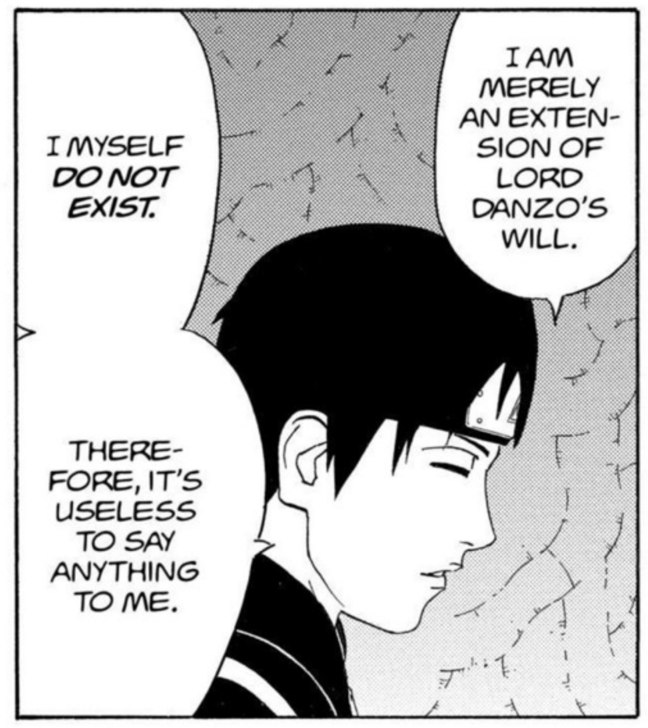



SAI... HOW CAN YOU...

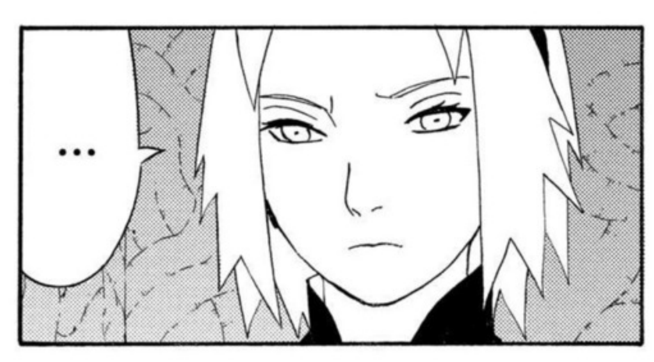

OH, AND SAI IS JUST A NAME I WAS GIVEN FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS MISSION...
I'M ACTUALLY *NOBODY.*

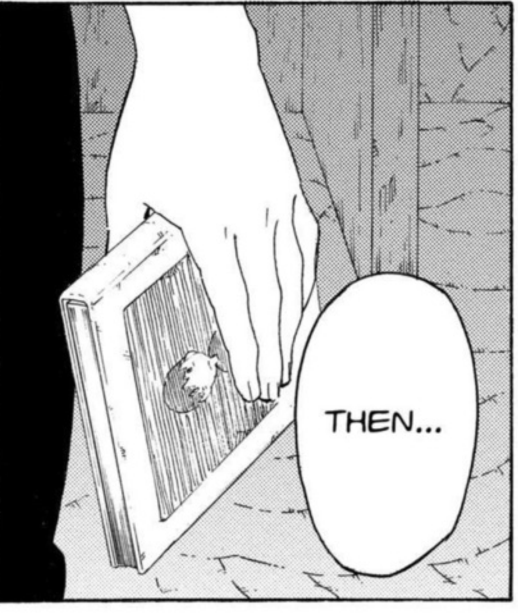

...

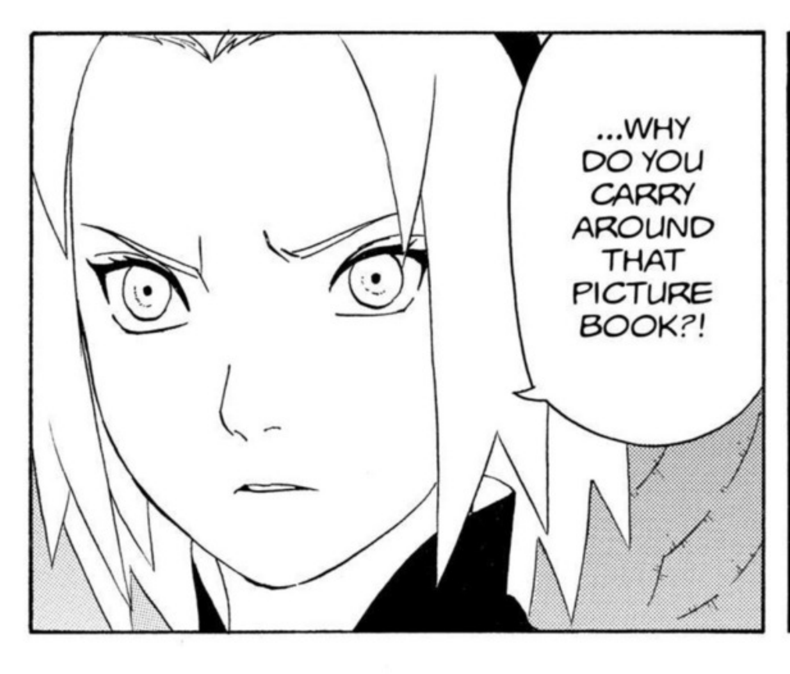

READ THIS WAY

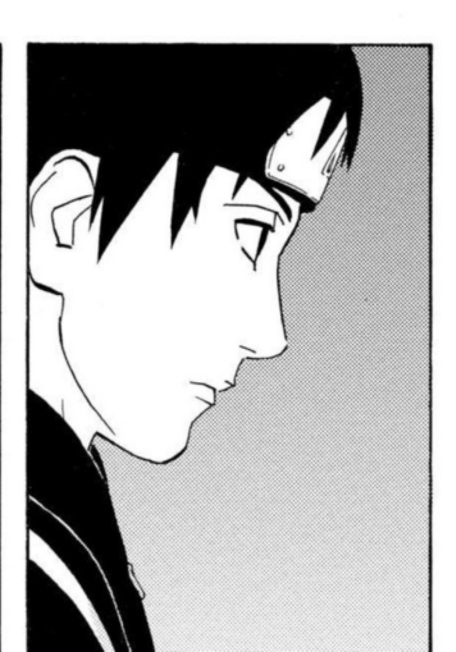

I AM MERELY AN EXTENSION OF LORD DANZO'S WILL.
I MYSELF *DO NOT EXIST.*
THEREFORE, IT'S USELESS TO SAY ANYTHING TO ME.


...

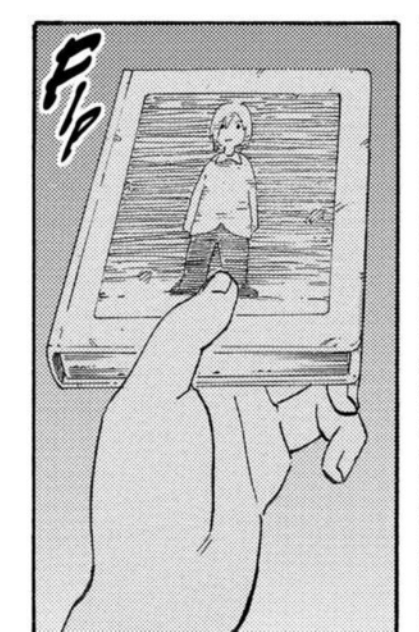

...


THEN...


...WHY DO YOU CARRY AROUND THAT PICTURE BOOK?!



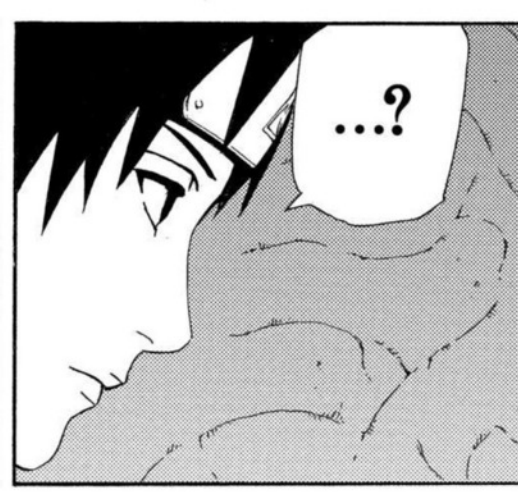

...




THE TWO BOYS ON THE COVERS ...
...ARE YOU AND YOUR BROTHER, RIGHT?


...

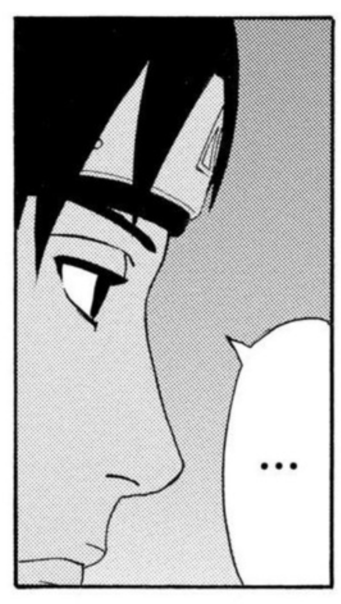

...YOU HANG ON TO IT BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT PROVES YOU ACTUALLY *DO* EXIST.


...?


YOU'RE NOT AS EMOTION-LESS AS YOU'D HAVE EVERYONE BELIEVE.

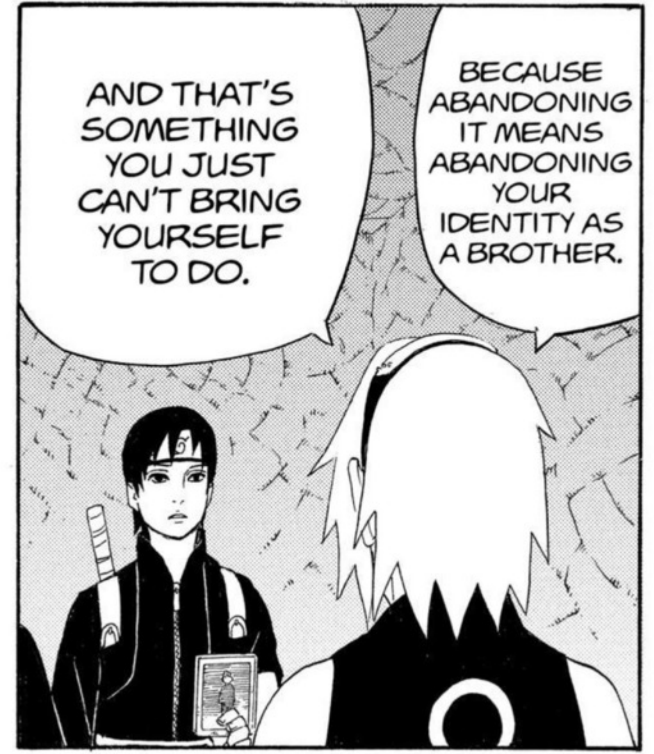

NOT EVEN SHINOBI CAN CUT OFF THEIR FEELINGS COM-PLETELY, YOU KNOW.

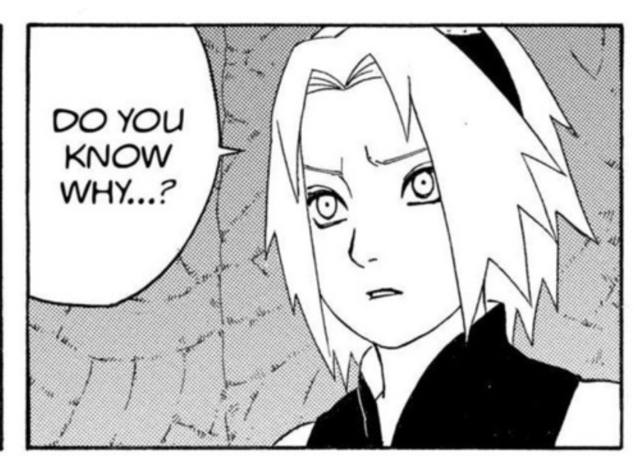

...


...


READ THIS WAY

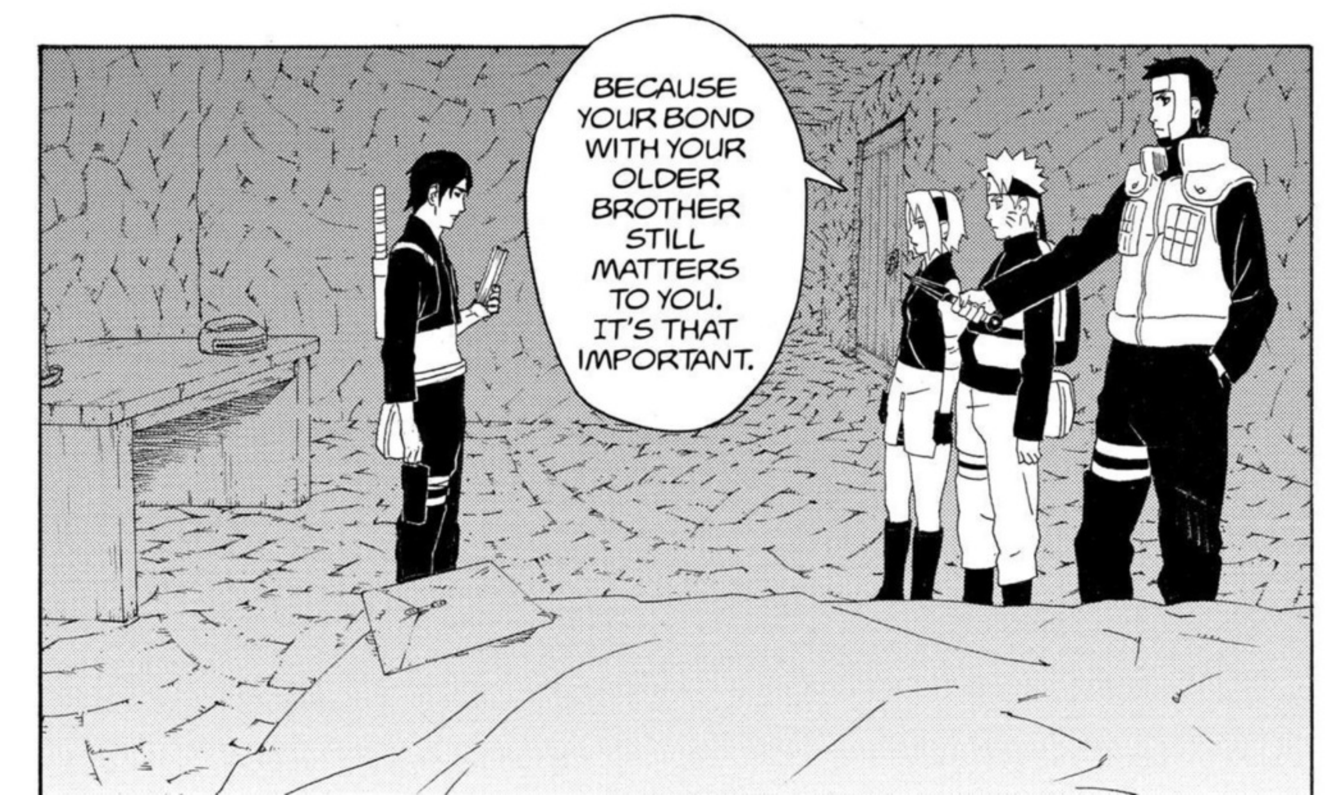

HOW DOES POSSESSING THIS BOOK...
...TRANSLATE INTO PROVING MY EXISTENCE...?


BECAUSE ABANDONING IT MEANS ABANDONING YOUR IDENTITY AS A BROTHER.
AND THAT'S SOMETHING YOU JUST CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO DO.


DO YOU KNOW WHY...?


...

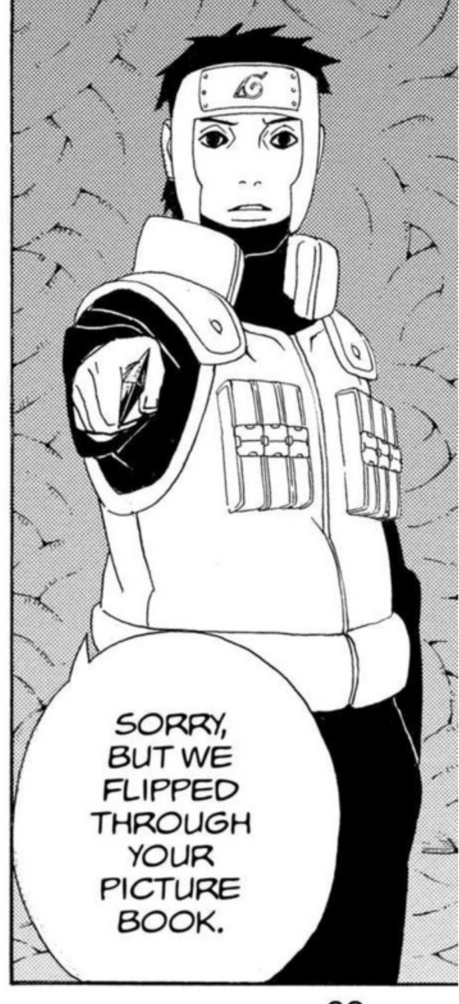

...

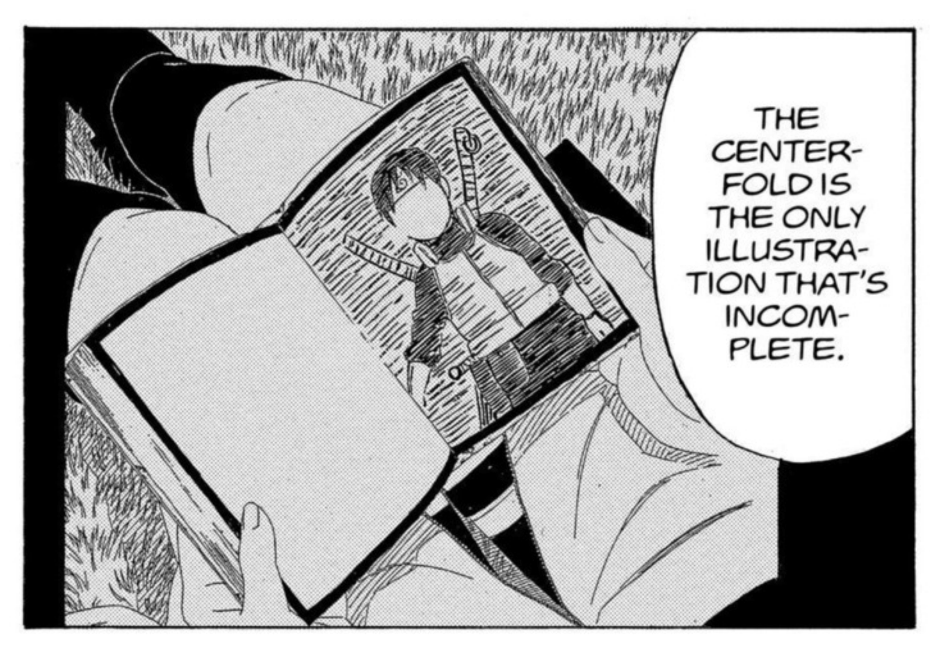

BECAUSE YOUR BOND WITH YOUR OLDER BROTHER STILL MATTERS TO YOU. IT'S THAT IMPORTANT.

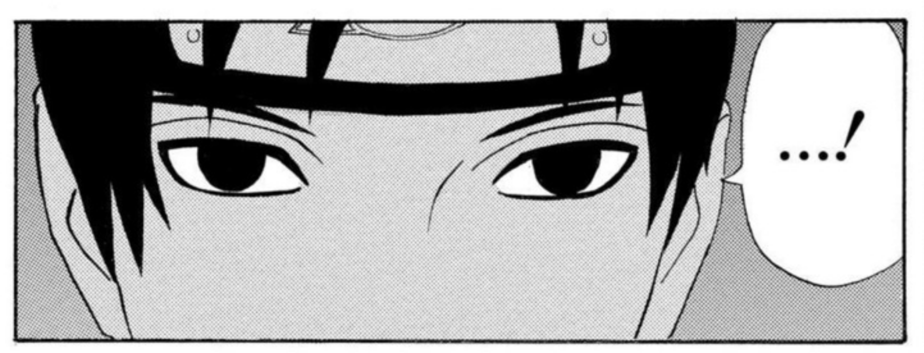



YOU DON'T WANT TO ERASE YOUR RELA-TIONSHIP WITH HIM...


...
...RELA-TION-SHIP...?


SORRY, BUT WE FLIPPED THROUGH YOUR PICTURE BOOK.


THE CENTER-FOLD IS THE ONLY ILLUSTRA-TION THAT'S INCOM-PLETE.

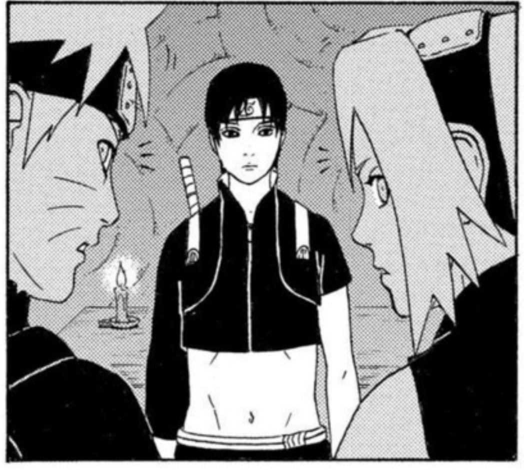

...!


READ THIS WAY

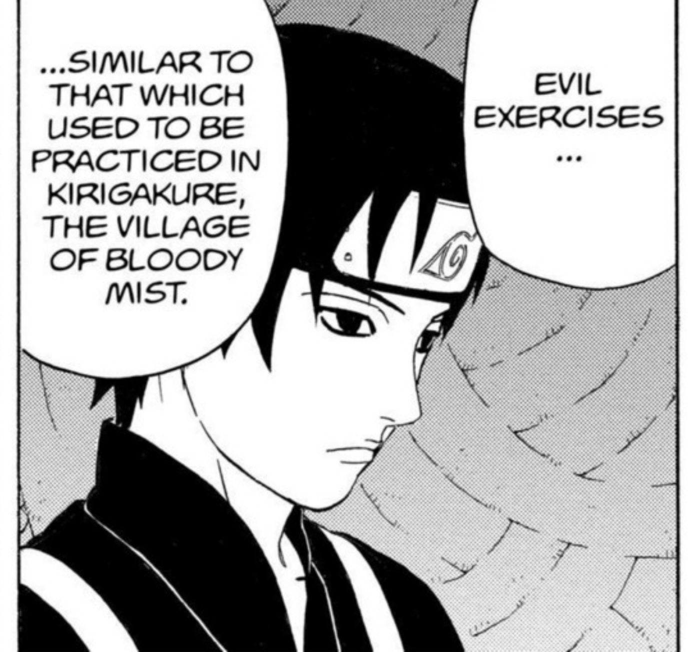

BY THE FLOW OF THE VISUAL NARRATIVE, FROM COVER TO COVER...
...IT SEEMS THE NEXT LOGICAL BATTLE... WOULD BE WITH YOUR BROTHER...


...


SAI...
I *KNOW* YOU'RE FROM THE FOUNDATION.




YOU'VE RECEIVED SPECIAL TRAINING FROM DANZO TO KILL ALL EMOTIONS.


EVIL EXERCISES ...
...SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH USED TO BE PRACTICED IN KIRIGAKURE, THE VILLAGE OF BLOODY MIST.

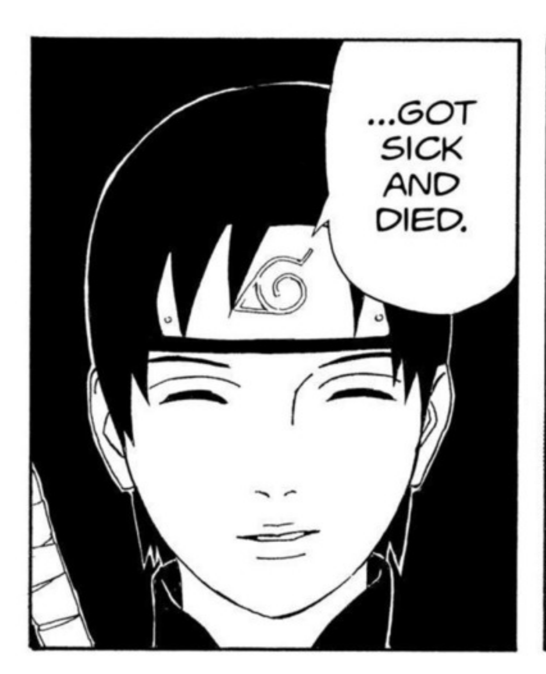

...

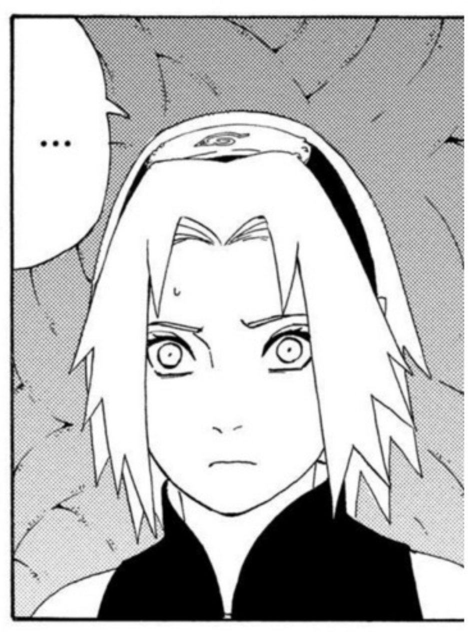

SO, DID YOU DO IT? DID YOU **KILL** YOUR BROTHER ...?

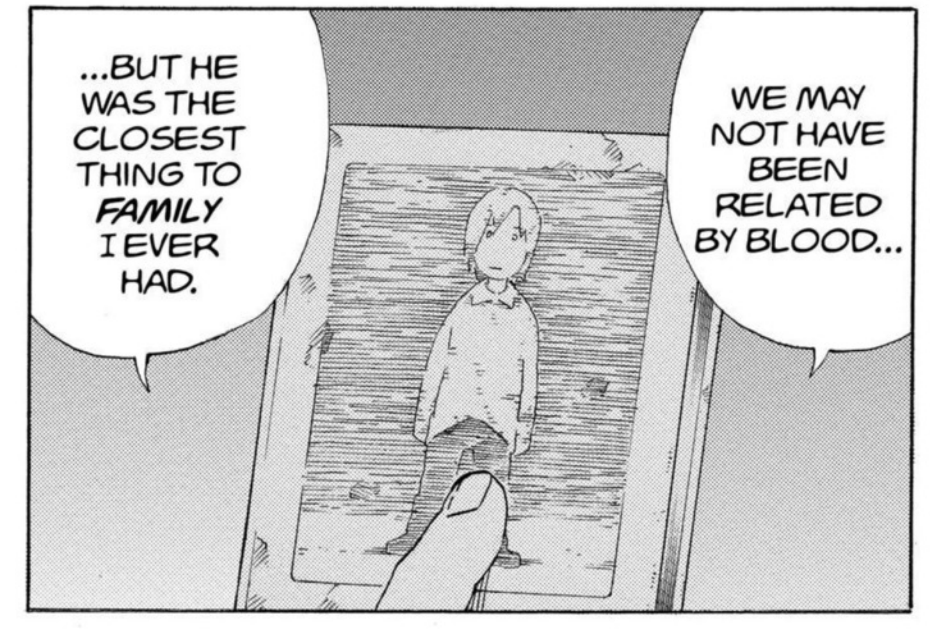

NO!


...
...


THIS BOOK... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A GIFT...
BUT JUST BEFORE I COMPLETED IT, HE...

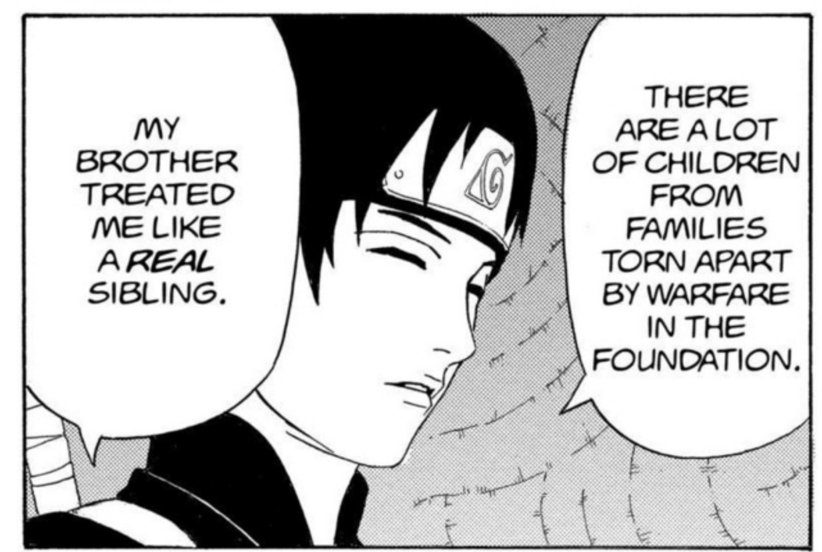

...GOT SICK AND DIED.

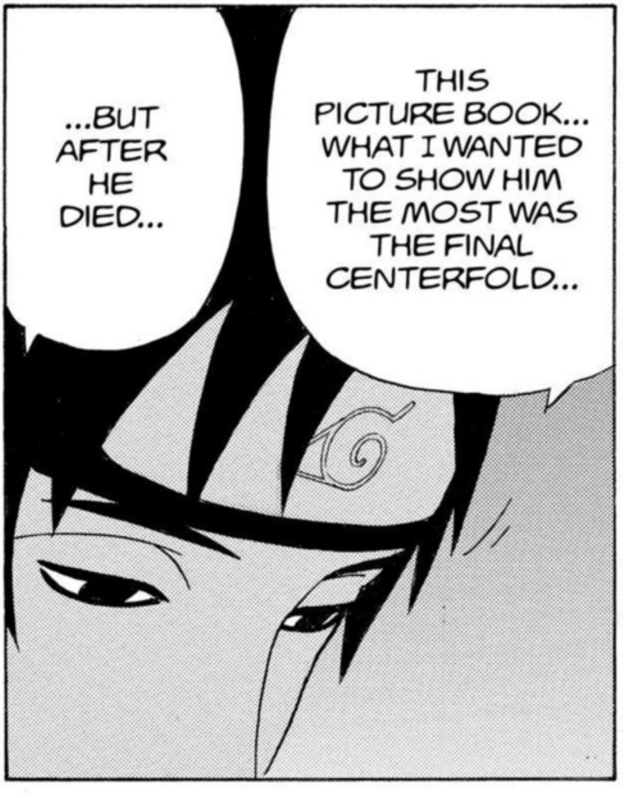

...


WE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN RELATED BY BLOOD...
...BUT HE WAS THE CLOSEST THING TO *FAMILY* I EVER HAD.


READ THIS WAY

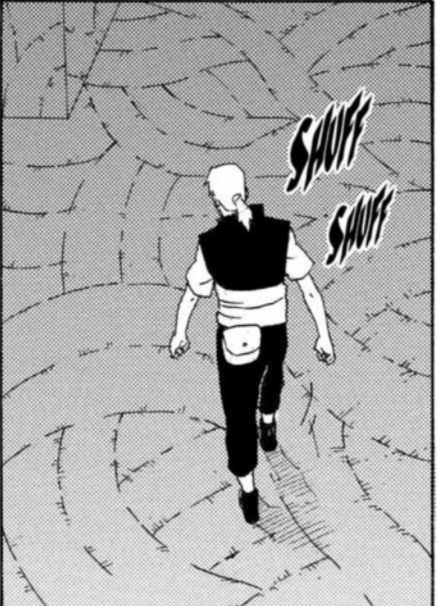

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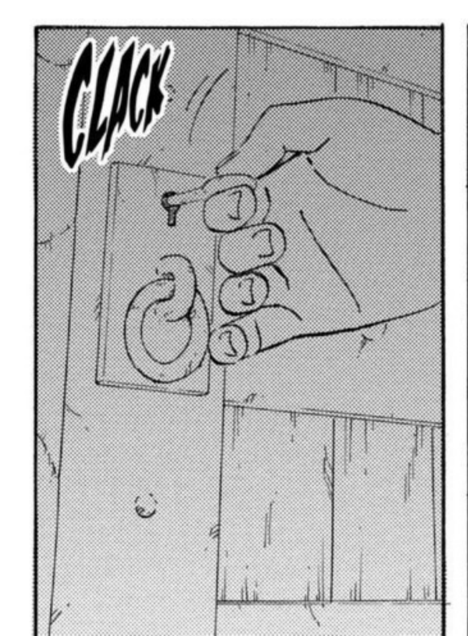

THERE ARE A LOT OF CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES TORN APART BY WARFARE IN THE FOUNDATION.
MY BROTHER TREATED ME LIKE A REAL SIBLING.

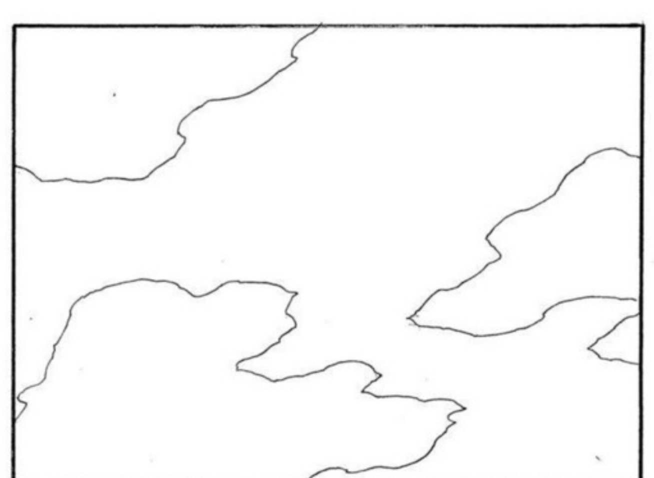

THIS PICTURE BOOK... WHAT I WANTED TO SHOW HIM THE MOST WAS THE FINAL CENTERFOLD...
...BUT AFTER HE DIED...

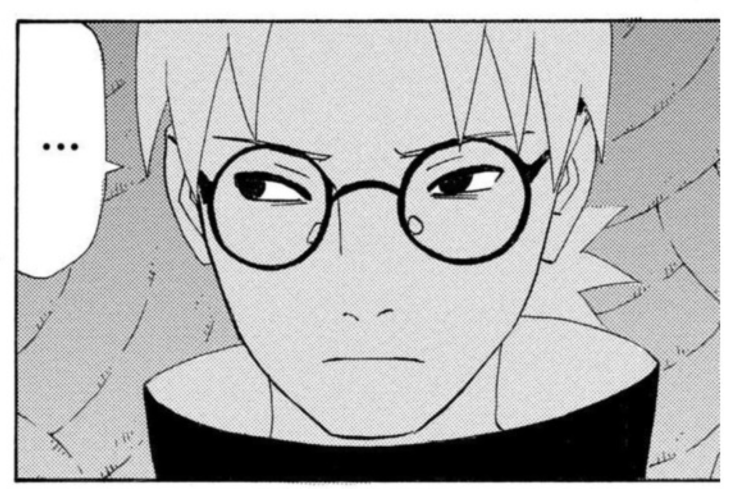

...I COULDN'T REMEMBER WHAT I HAD BEEN PLANNING TO DRAW.

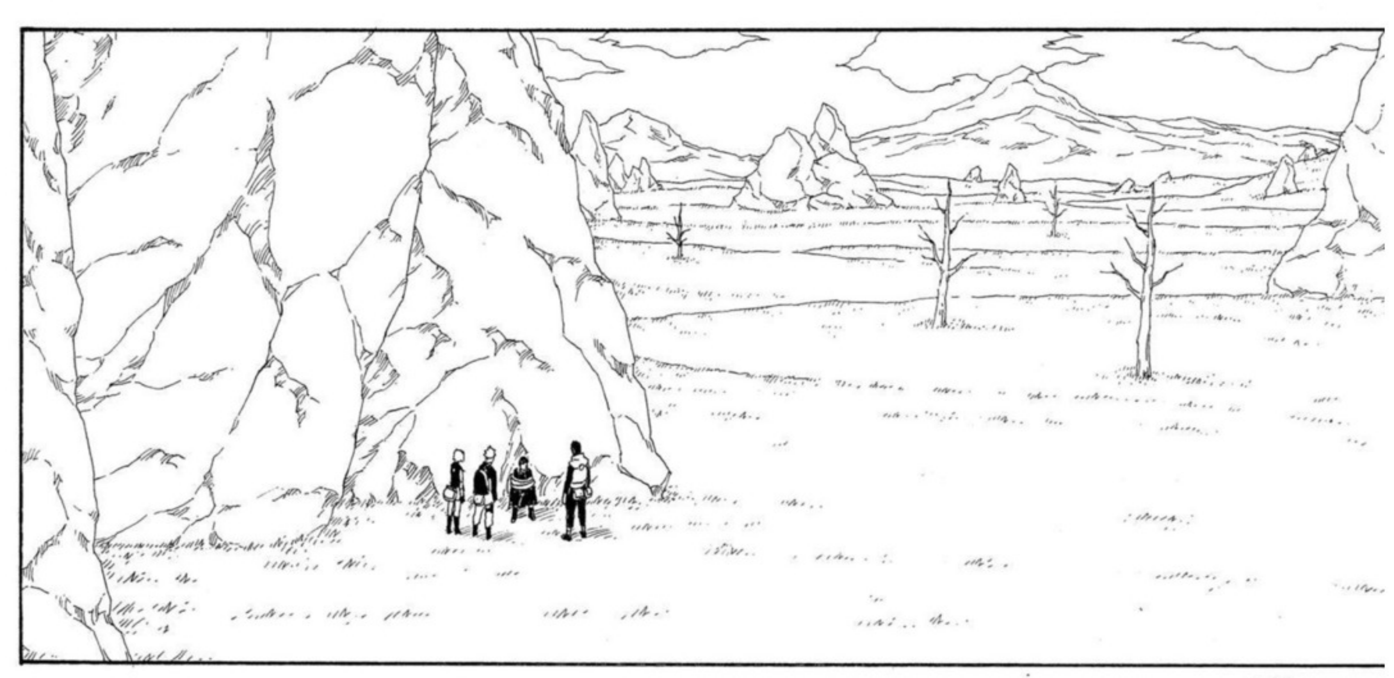

...


SHUFF
SHUFF


CLACK








READ THIS WAY


SORRY, SAI...
...BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE YOU HERE WITH MY DOPPELGANGER STANDING WATCH.




ALL RIGHT, NOW DOWN TO OUR *REAL* BUSINESS...


...LET'S GO RESCUE SASUKE!


...

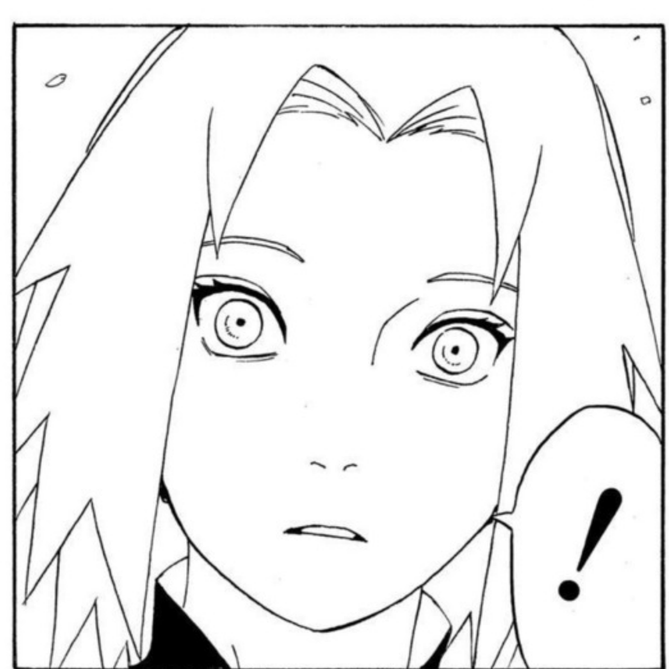

AND WHAT IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE RESCUED?

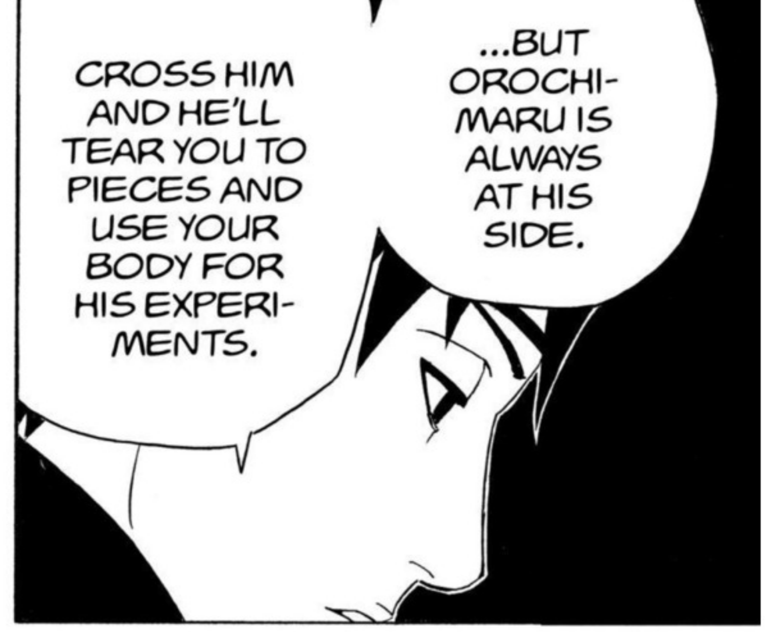

...


...!


I ACTUALLY GOT TO MEET HIM...


!

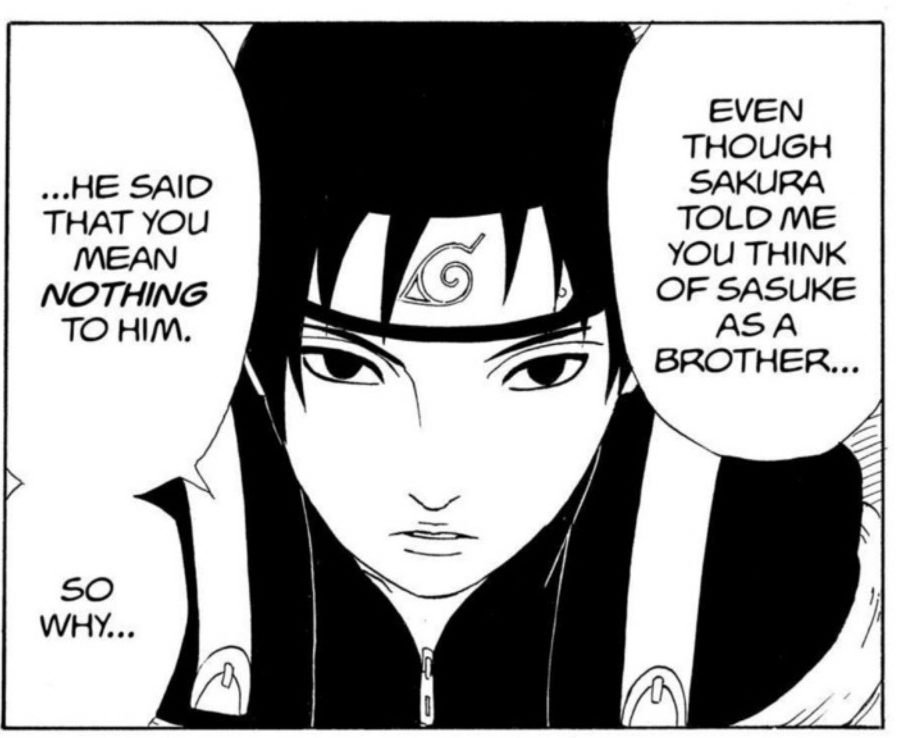

!

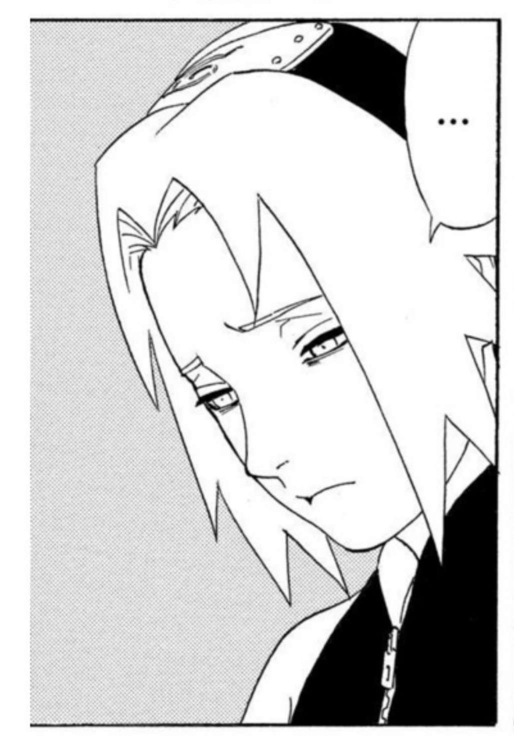

...BUT OROCHI-MARU IS ALWAYS AT HIS SIDE.
CROSS HIM AND HE'LL TEAR YOU TO PIECES AND USE YOUR BODY FOR HIS EXPERI-MENTS.

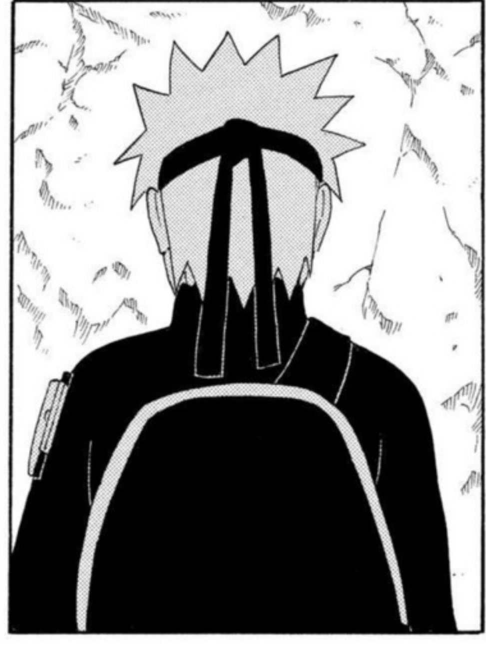

BESIDES ...

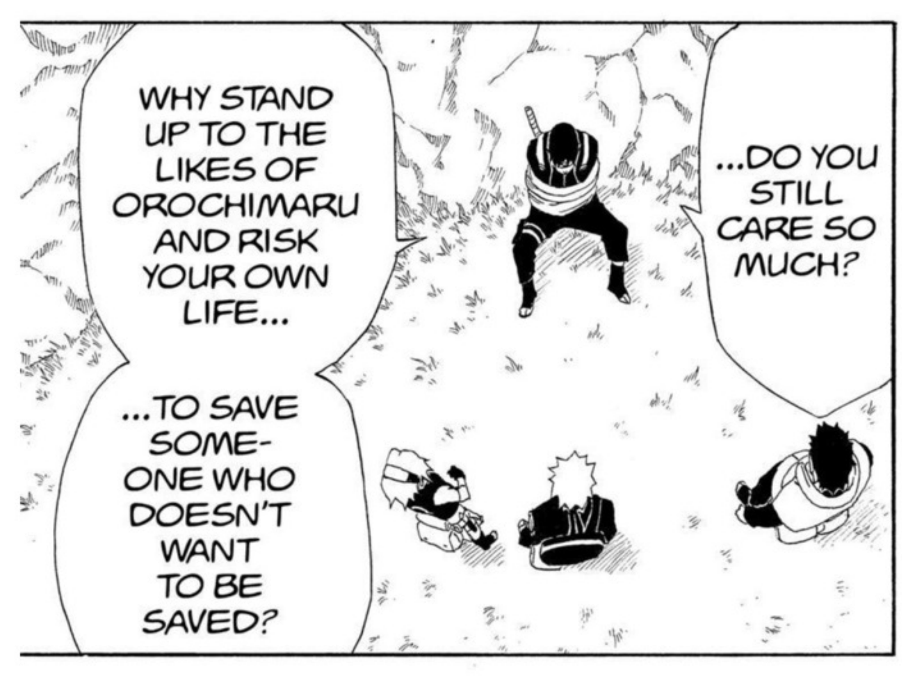

...

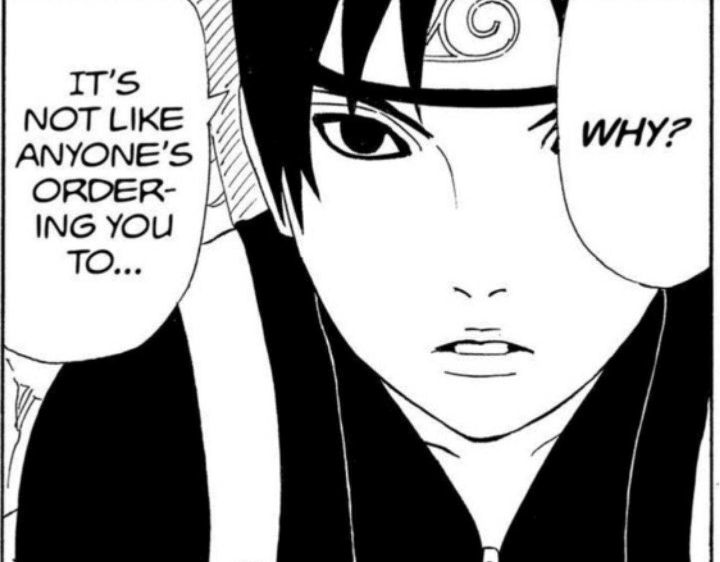

READ
THIS
WAY


EVEN THOUGH SAKURA TOLD ME YOU THINK OF SASUKE AS A BROTHER...
...HE SAID THAT YOU MEAN *NOTHING* TO HIM.
SO WHY...


...




...DO YOU STILL CARE SO MUCH?
WHY STAND UP TO THE LIKES OF OROCHIMARU AND RISK YOUR OWN LIFE...
...TO SAVE SOME-ONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE SAVED?


WHY?
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE'S ORDER-ING YOU TO...


...


WHEN I FIRST MET SASUKE, I TOTALLY HATED HIM...
...BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I ALSO REALLY ENJOYED BEING AROUND HIM.
'CUZ HE...


...REALLY ACCEPTED ME MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.




I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE SASUKE IS MY ***FRIEND...***
...AND THAT'S A BOND THAT CAN ***NEVER*** BE BROKEN.


...

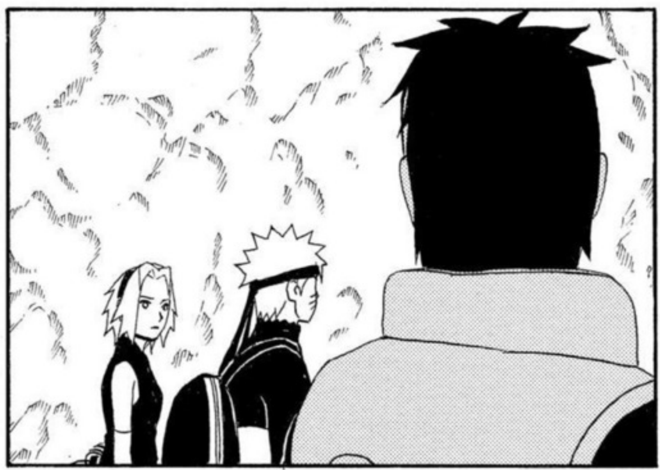

BOND...


READ THIS WAY


BUT STILL...
...TO GO UP AGAINST OROCHI-MARU...?


IF HE TEARS MY ARMS OFF, I'LL KICK HIM DEAD.
IF HE TEARS MY LEGS OFF, I'LL BITE HIM DEAD.
IF HE TEARS MY NECK OFF, I'LL GLARE HIM DEAD.
AND IF HE POKES MY EYES OUT, I'LL CURSE HIM DEAD.


...




LET OROCHI-MARU TRY AND CUT ME TO PIECES...
...I'LL STILL FIND A WAY TO STEAL SASUKE BACK!


NARUTO

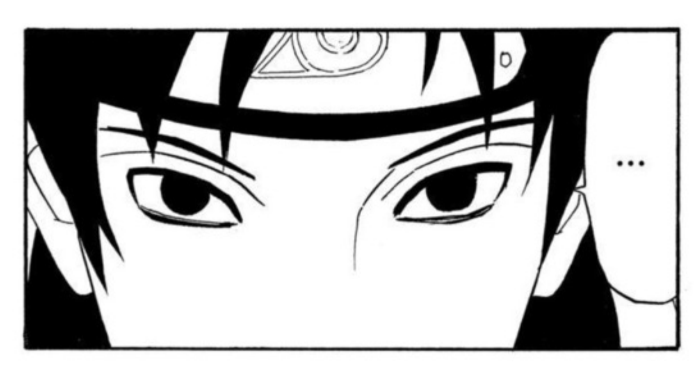
Number 304: Behind the Betrayal!!




NARUTO




...



...

LET ME CREATE THE LOOKOUT SO WE CAN GO BACK IN.


!

!

!

THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
THOCK
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM


SSSKOOF

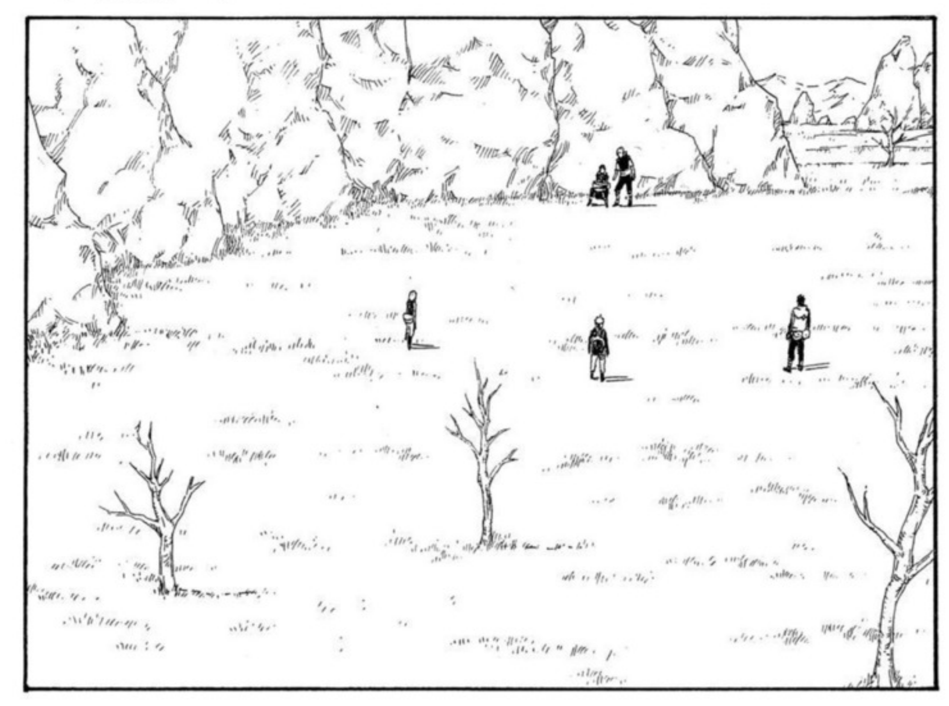

SSSKOOF


SSSKOOF

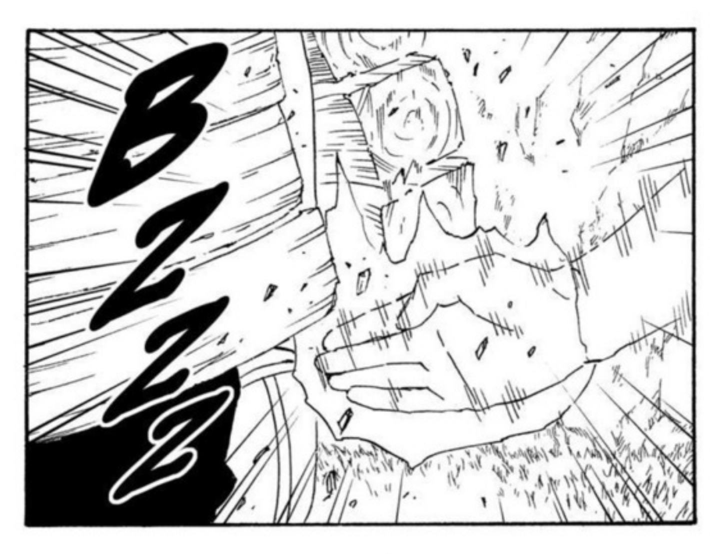

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, SAI...
TAP
!
...YOU'VE BEEN CAPTURED.


READ
THIS
WAY


...




WELL, YOU DON'T APPEAR TO HAVE BETRAYED US...
...I'LL GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.


BZZZ


THAT KABUTO... SUCH A PEST...
SHMP


IF YOU TRY TO STOP US, SAI...
...WE WON'T HOLD BACK!


...


BOOF
SPROING
THWACK
!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
BOOF

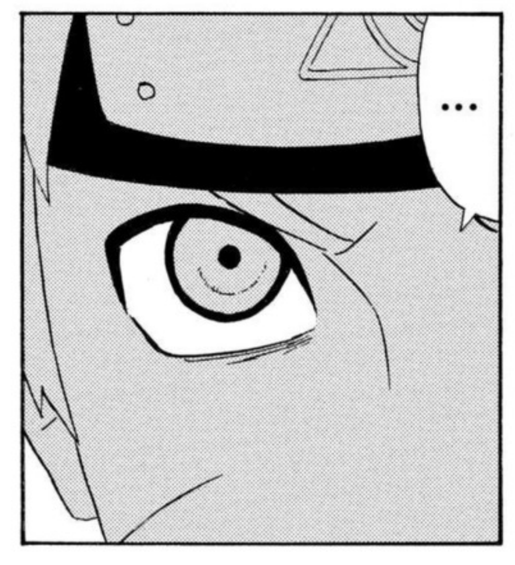

READ THIS WAY


HUP
NO WAY TO KNOW WITHOUT TRYING!!


NO, NO.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT...

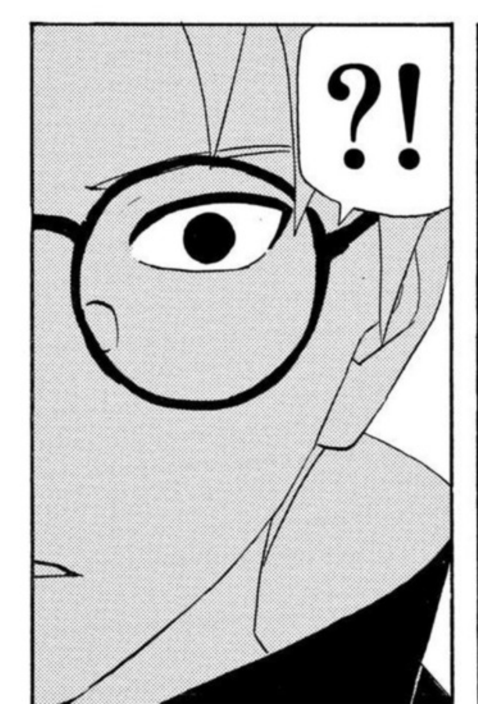

...WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, IT'S REALLY PATHETIC...


PEOPLE CHANGE.
SASUKE IS NO LONGER THE BOY YOU KNEW.


...


...

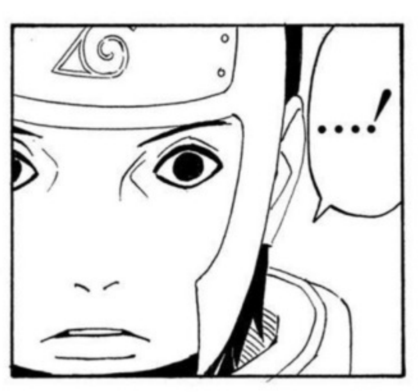



?!

THAP
WHA?!


?!


?!

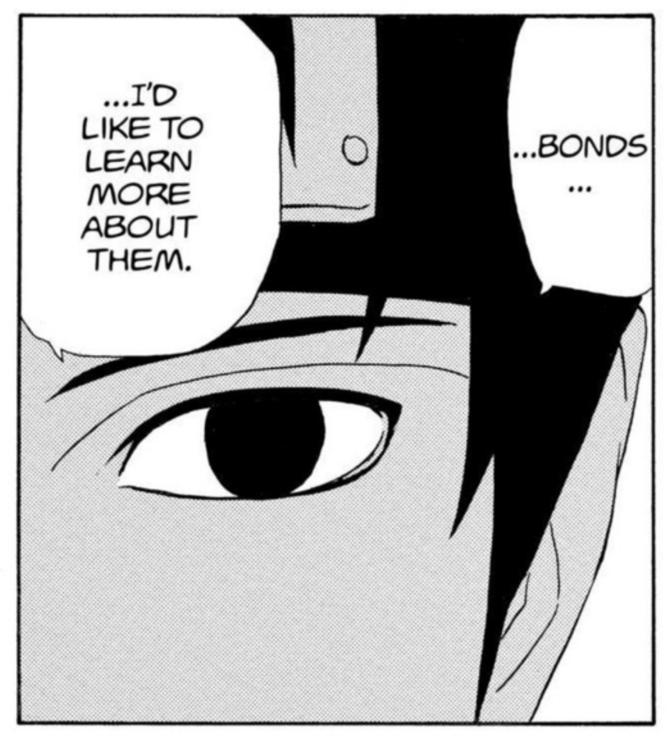

....!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!


IF PEOPLE CHANGE ...
...THEN SO CAN I.
WHAT?!


READ THIS WAY

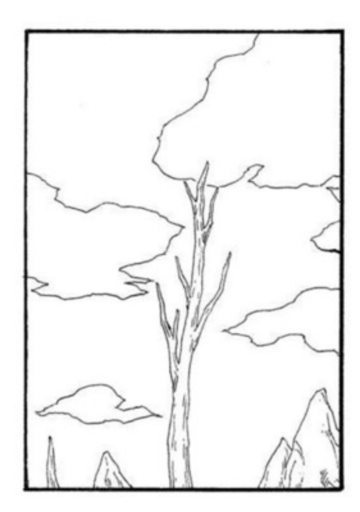

...BUT SOME THINGS DON'T CHANGE...


...BONDS ...
...I'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM.


SAI...
...YOU ...

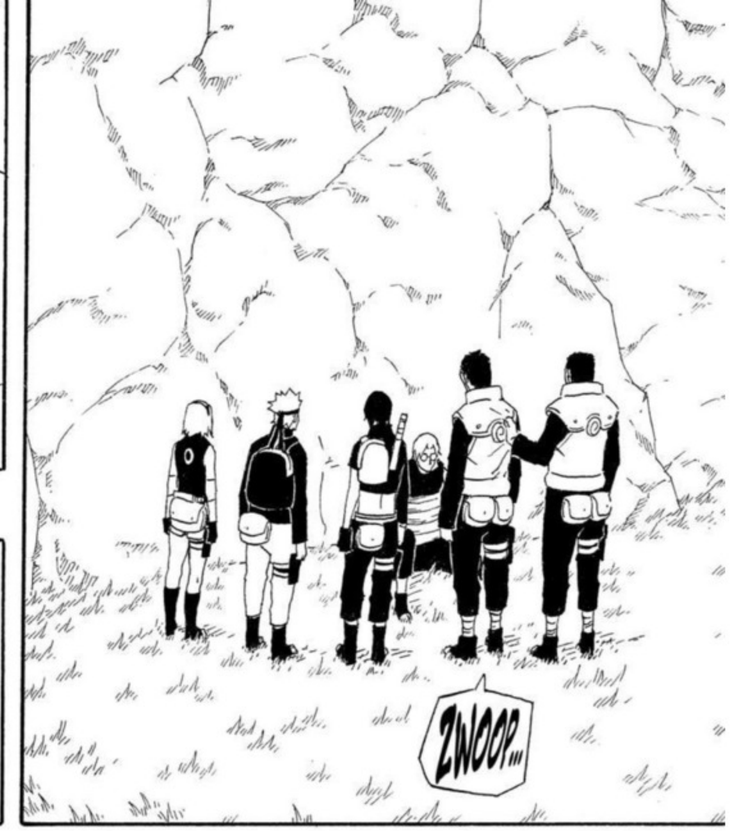

...SAI...


THAT'S IT, SAI! HOLD HIM LIKE THAT A LITTLE LONGER ...



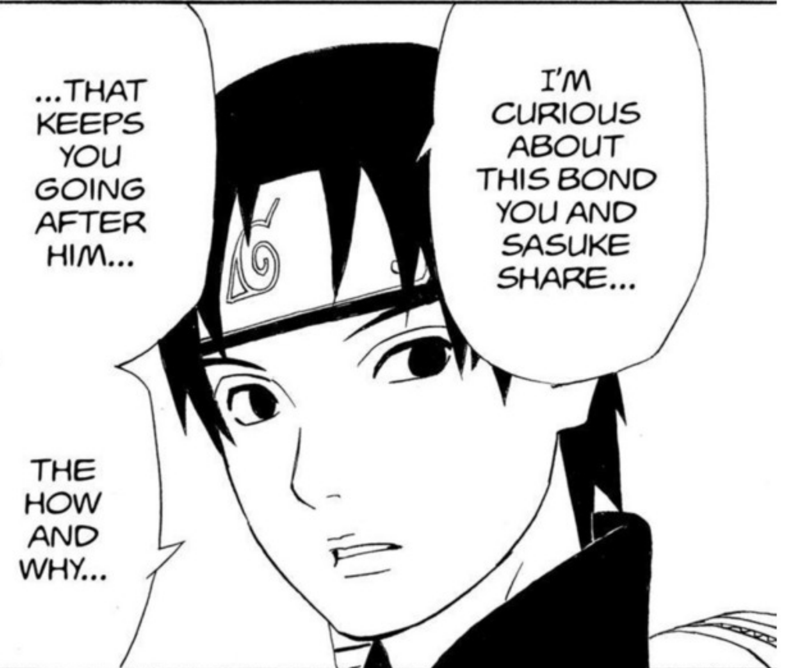



ZWOOOP


ZWOOP...


...


SAI...
WHAT'S... UP WITH YOU...?!


I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THIS BOND YOU AND SASUKE SHARE...
...THAT KEEPS YOU GOING AFTER HIM...
THE HOW AND WHY...


...


WATCHING THE TWO OF YOU...
...MAKES ME REALIZE THAT PERHAPS I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ERASE MY BOND WITH MY BROTHER.


AND IF SAKURA IS RIGHT...
...IF THAT REALLY IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING TO ME...
...PERHAPS I CAN FIGURE OUT WHY BY OBSERVING THE BOND BETWEEN YOU AND SASUKE.
THAT'S ALL...


READ
THIS
WAY

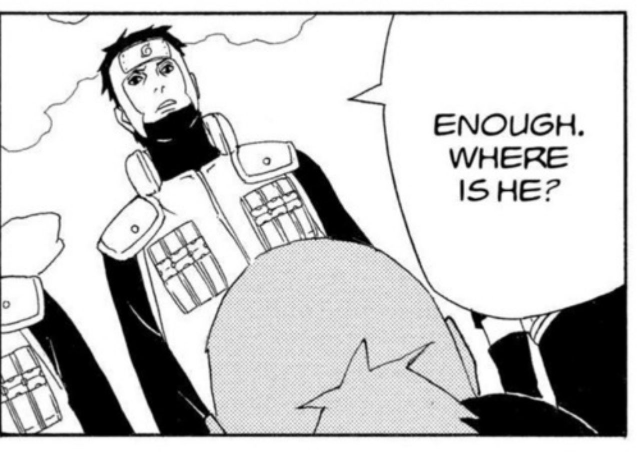

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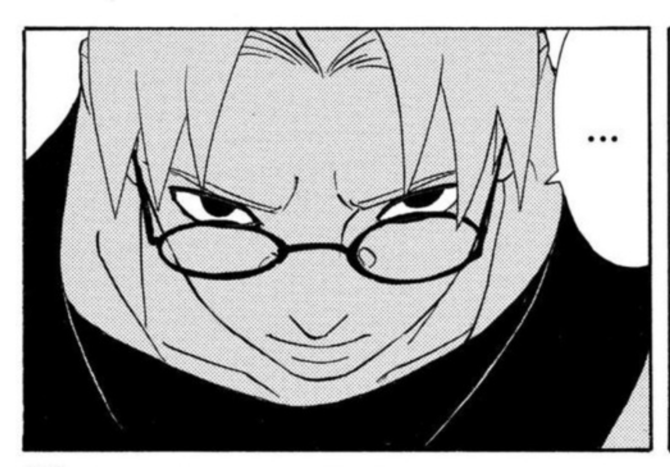



YOU JUST DON'T GET SASUKE AT ALL!


HEH... HEH HEH HEH...


STOP LAUGHING! YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY?!


ENOUGH. WHERE IS HE?


...


BY NOW, HE'S PROBABLY FINISHED TRAINING AND HAS RETIRED TO ONE OF THE INNER ROOMS.
THIS PLACE IS RIDDLED WITH SELF-CONTAINED ROOMS, YOU KNOW.
YOU'LL HAVE TO CHECK ROOM BY ROOM IN ORDER TO FIND HIM.


FOR LORD OROCHIMARU'S PRIVATE QUARTERS ARE LOCATED NEAR THERE AS WELL.
BUT IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, POKING THE WRONG BUSH WILL FLUSH OUT SOME SNAKES.


...

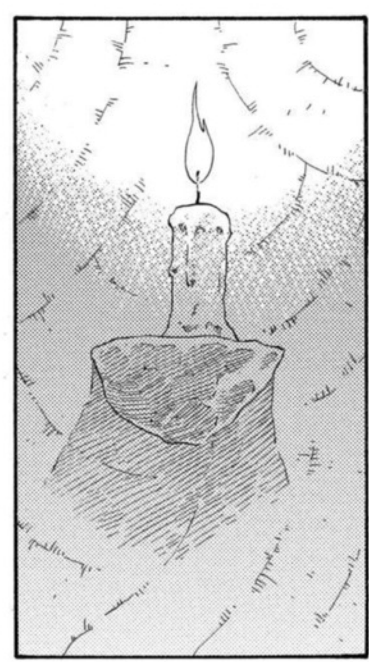

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HONESTY.
OH NO, NO NEED TO THANK ME.

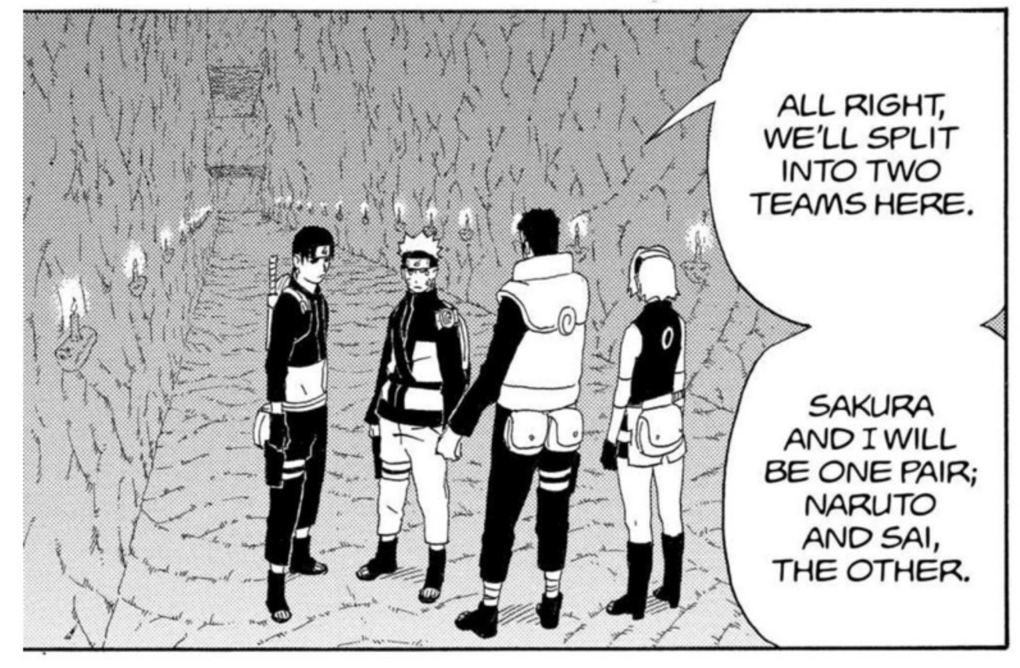

BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO GET KILLED ANYWAY?
YES.


...

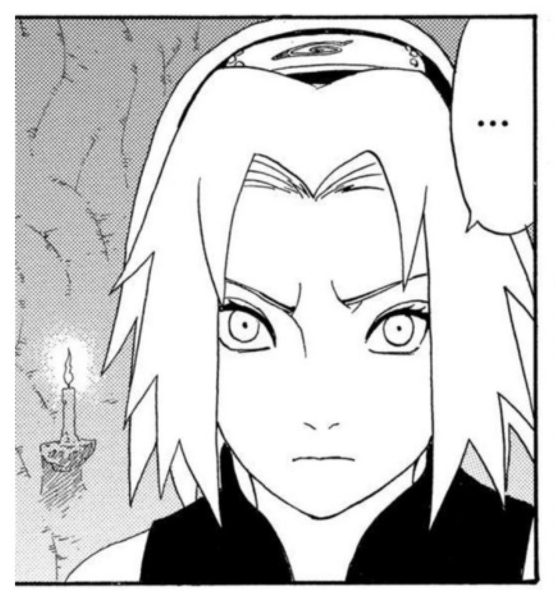

AS NARUTO SAID, NO WAY TO KNOW WITHOUT TRYING...


READ
THIS
WAY

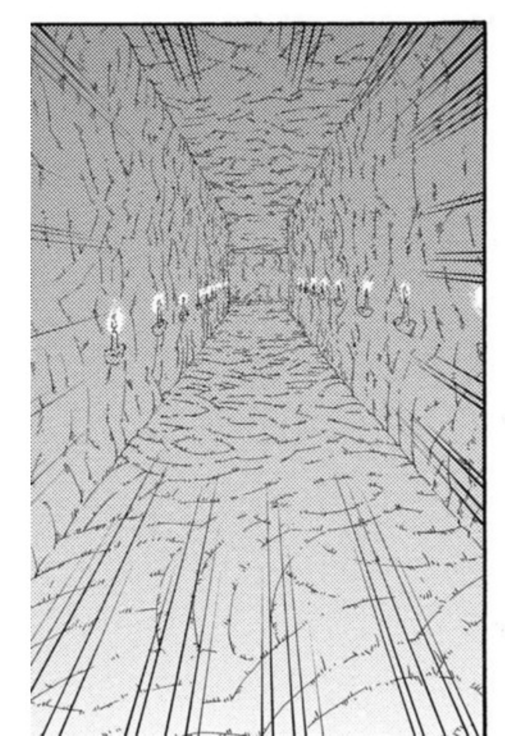


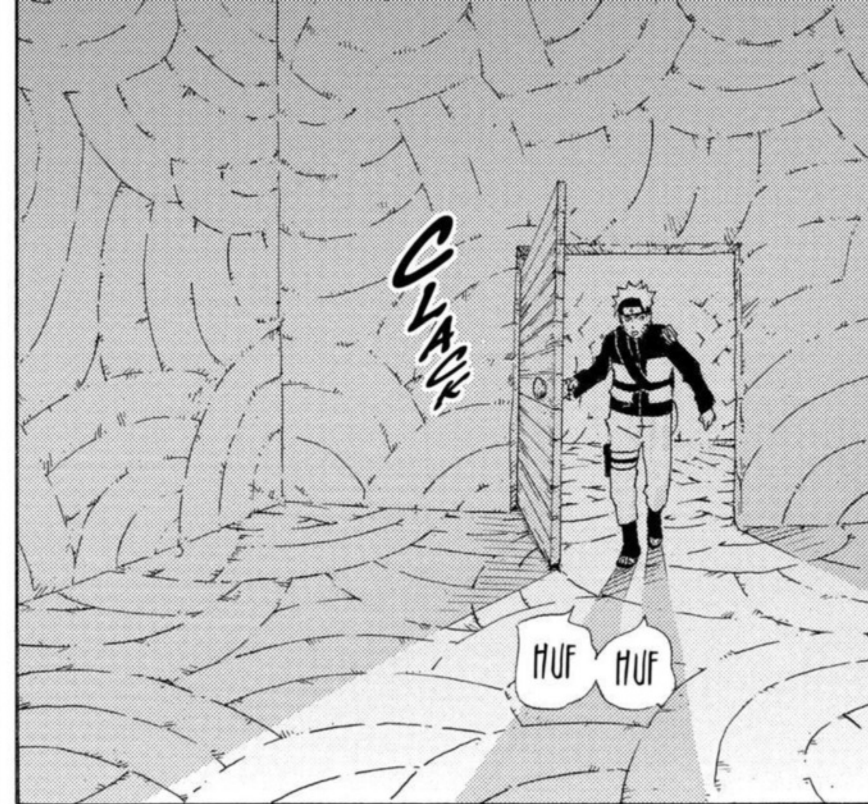

ALL RIGHT, WE'LL SPLIT INTO TWO TEAMS HERE.
SAKURA AND I WILL BE ONE PAIR; NARUTO AND SAI, THE OTHER.


IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, JUST MANIPULATE YOUR CHAKRA.
IT'LL ACTIVATE THE TREE SEED INSIDE YOU AND ALERT ME.
I'LL COME RUNNING RIGHT AWAY.


...


SASUKE ...

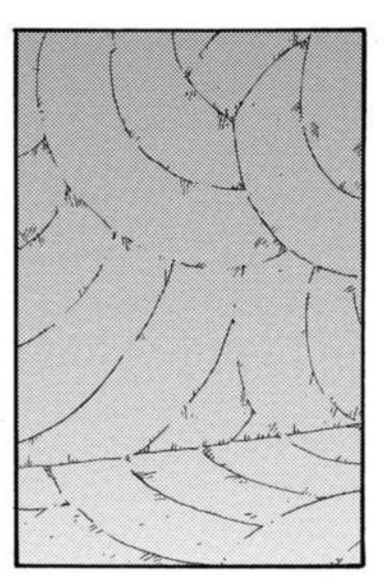



CLACK
HUF
HUF

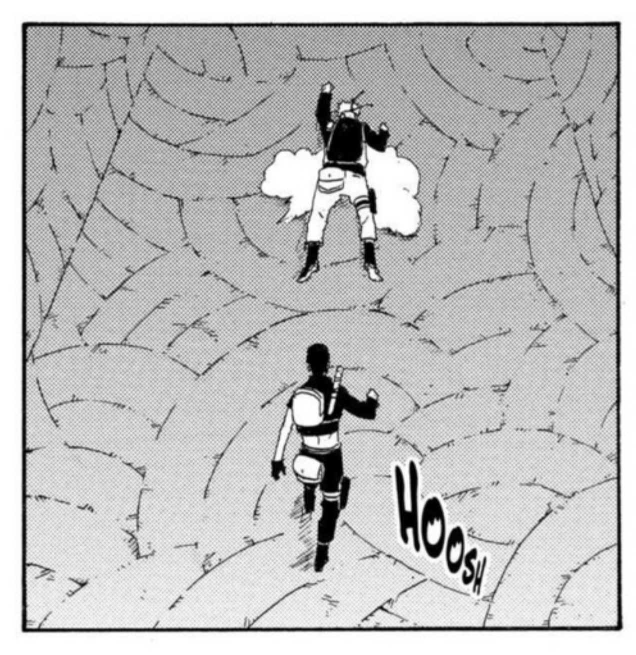

HUF
HUF
...
NOPE NOT HERE EITHER...


THAT'S IT FOR THIS LEVEL.
LET'S CHECK THE NEXT ONE.


YUP!




WHUMP
OWW!

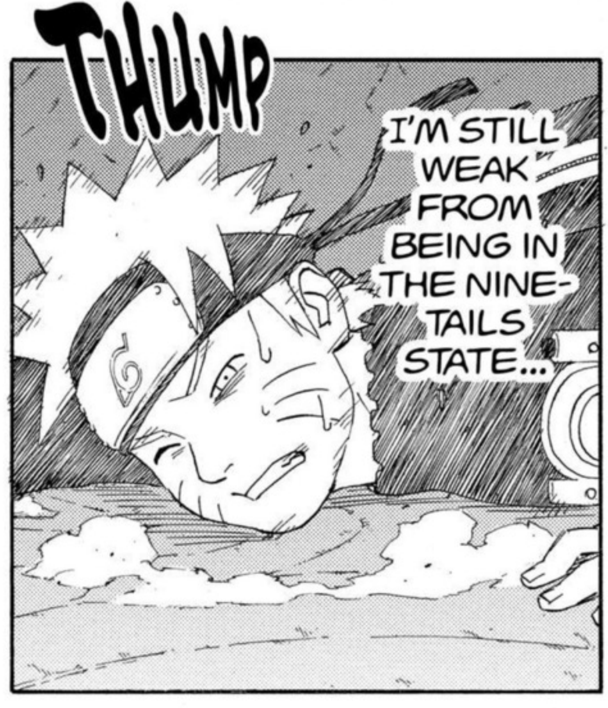

HOOSH


READ
THIS
WAY


HUF
HUF
...

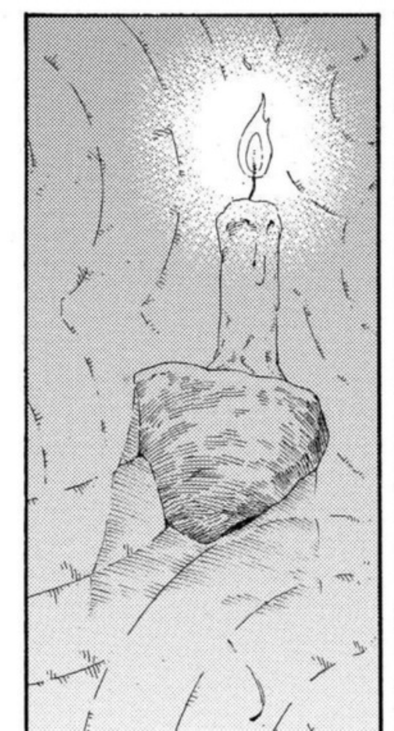

NARUTO
...
...YAMATO SPLIT US UP SO WE COULD CHECK TWICE AS MANY ROOMS IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME.
JUST TAKE IT EASY...


SHUT UP...! THERE'S NO TIME TO REST!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND SASUKE...
HUP
HUF
HUF


THUMP
I'M STILL WEAK FROM BEING IN THE NINE-TAILS STATE...


...


FAP

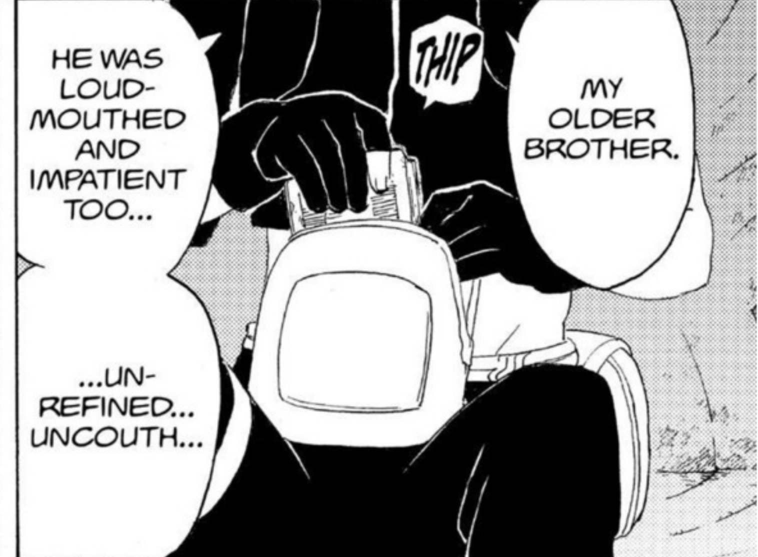



?


BOY, YOU REALLY ARE LIKE HIM.
SKRITCH


...


...THE LIST OF HIS SHORT-COMINGS GOES ON AND ON...


MY OLDER BROTHER.
THIP
HE WAS LOUD-MOUTHED AND IMPATIENT TOO...
...UN-REFINED... UNCOUTH...


WATCHING YOU HAS HELPED ME REMEMBER HIM...


BUT YOU KNOW... WHEN HE DID SOME-THING...
...HE ALWAYS GAVE IT HIS ALL, JUST LIKE YOU.


READ THIS WAY


...



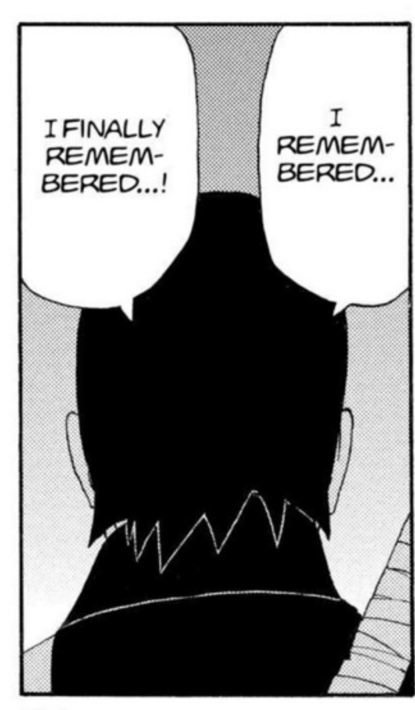



CHIKA CHIKA
CHIKA CHIKA


THWIT
?


SCRITCH SCRITCH

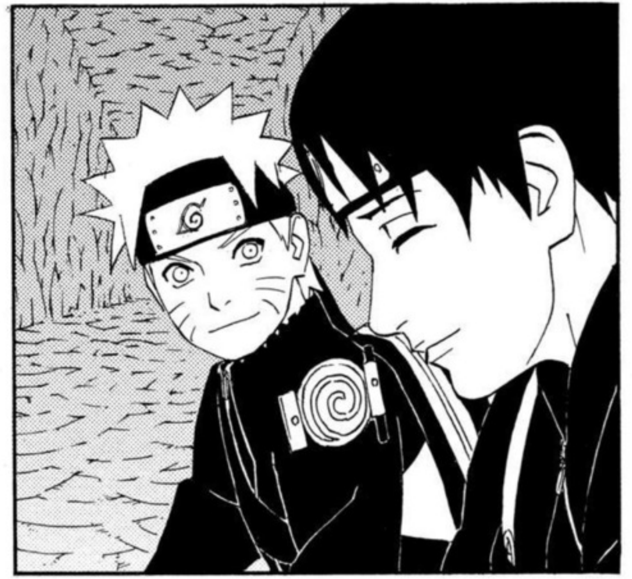

HEY!
DRAWING?! NOW?!


I REMEM-BERED...
I FINALLY REMEM-BERED...!

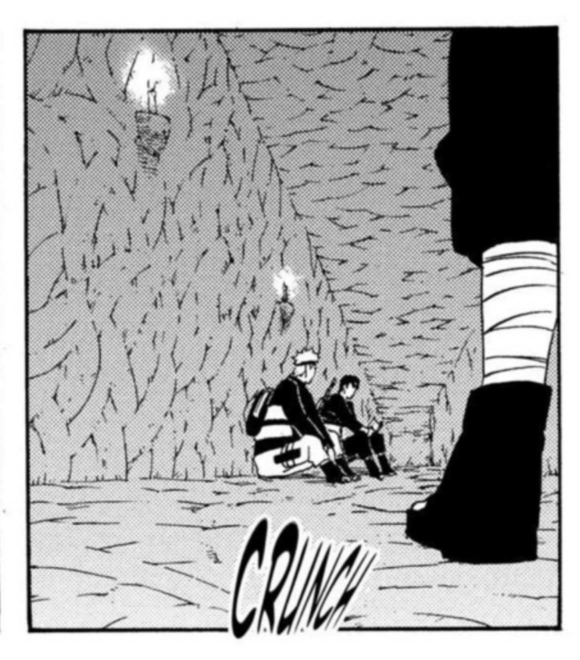

THE DREAM DRAWING...


...THAT I WANTED TO SHOW MY BROTHER...


READ
THIS
WAY

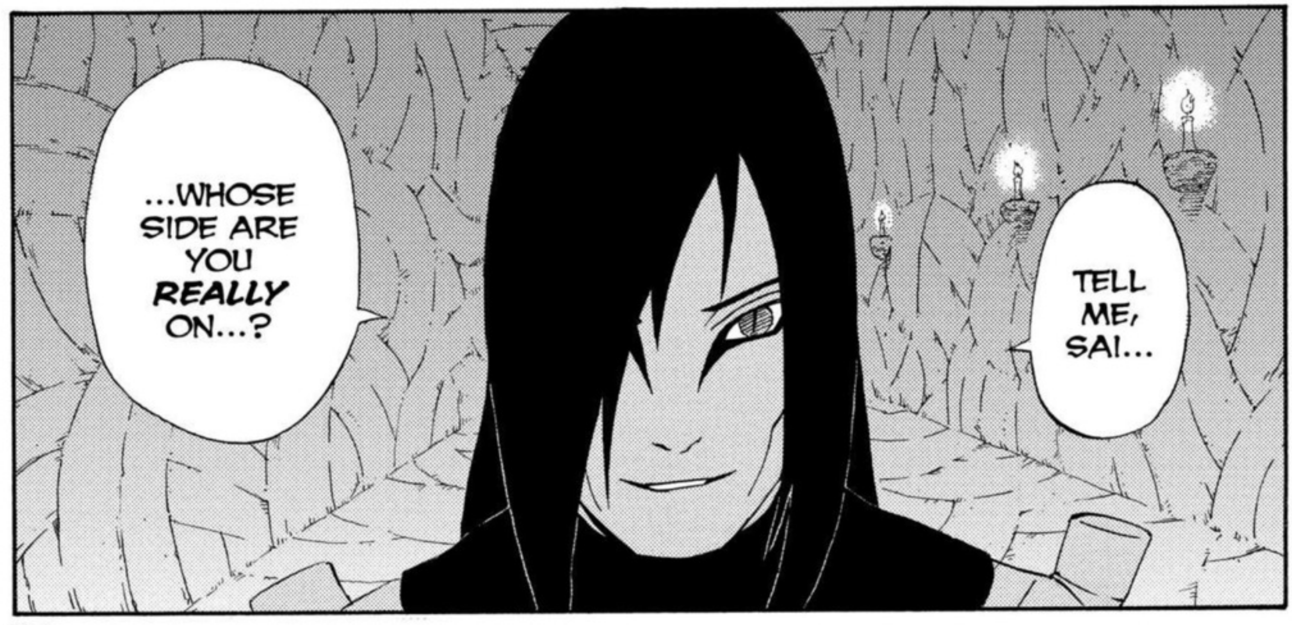





CRUNCH



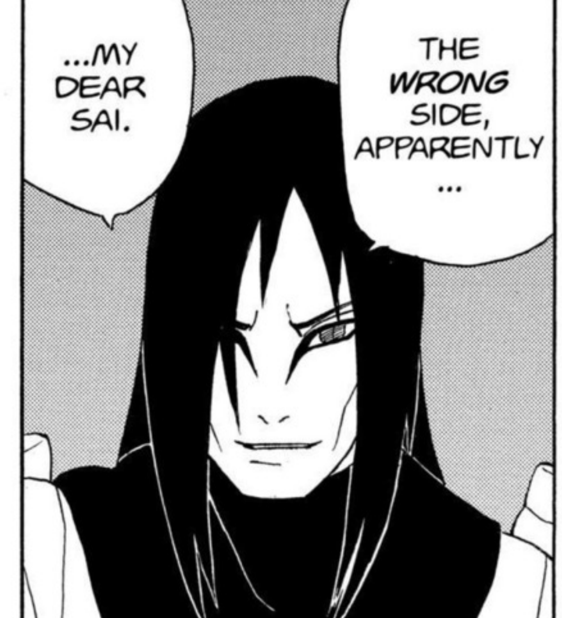

...!
!!


TELL ME, SAI...
...WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU REALLY ON...?


NARUTO

Number 305: Our Bond

VWAAAAM
STRIKING SNAKE TECH-NIQUE!!
HUP
FIP
THIP
THIP
SSSWAP





Number 305: Our Bond

!

YOU GO FIND SASUKE, SAI...

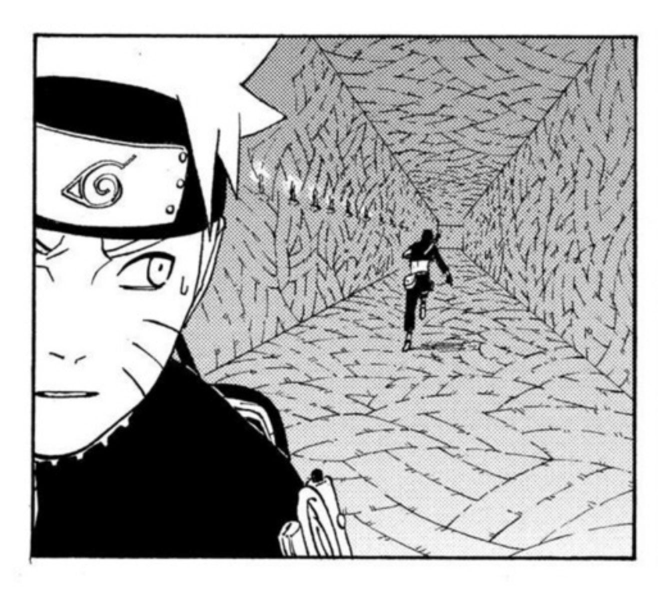
...LEAVE OL' SNAKE FACE TO ME!



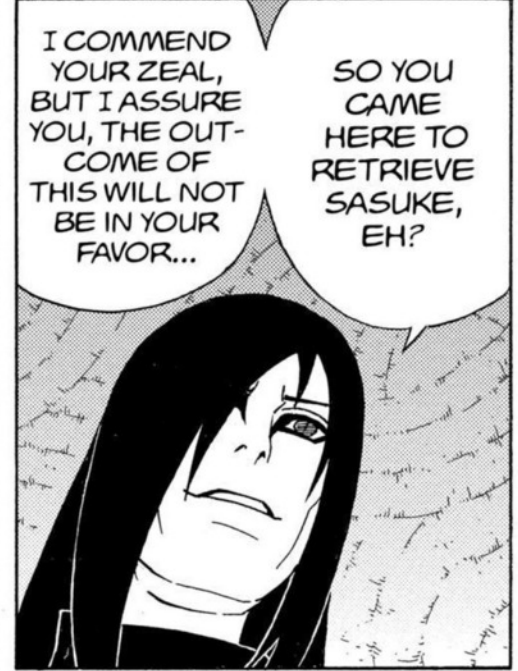









READ THIS WAY


SO YOU CAME HERE TO RETRIEVE SASUKE, EH?
I COMMEND YOUR ZEAL, BUT I ASSURE YOU, THE OUT-COME OF THIS WILL NOT BE IN YOUR FAVOR...

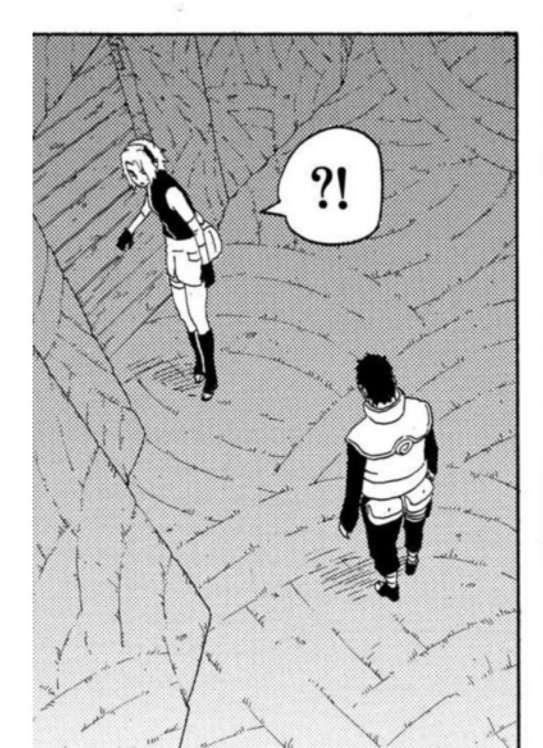

SHUT UP!
FIRST I'M GONNA TAKE YOU DOWN...
...THEN I'M BRINGING SASUKE HOME!



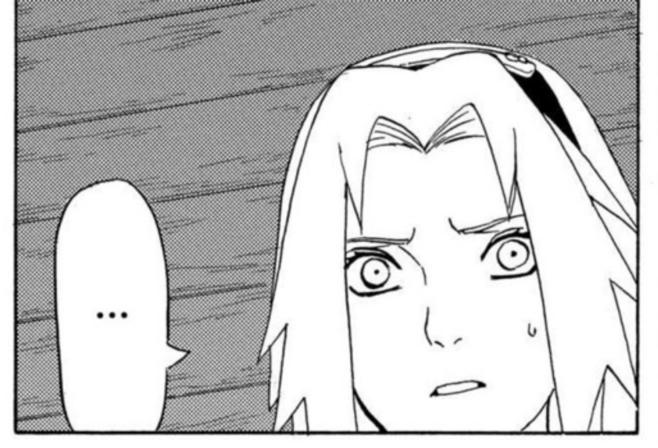



HE'S NOT HERE EITHER...

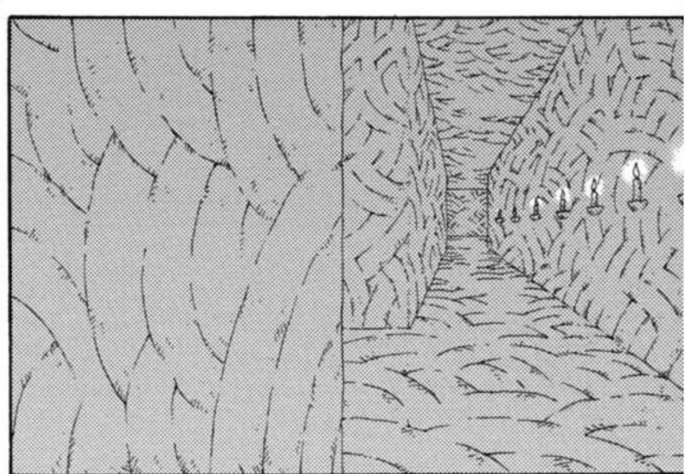


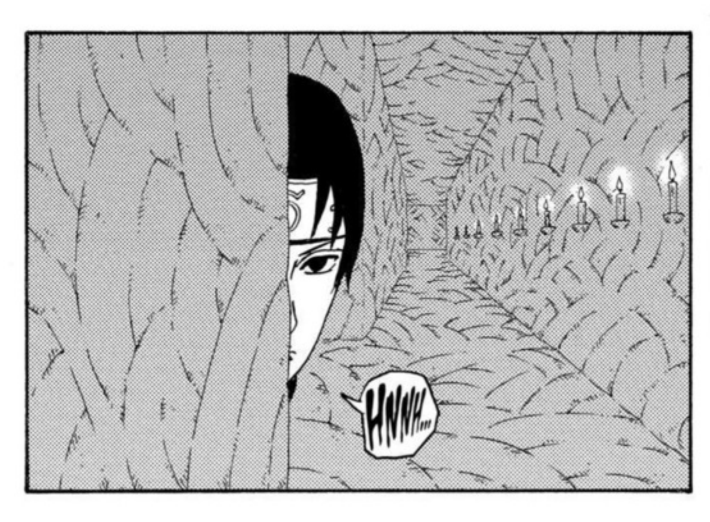

?!

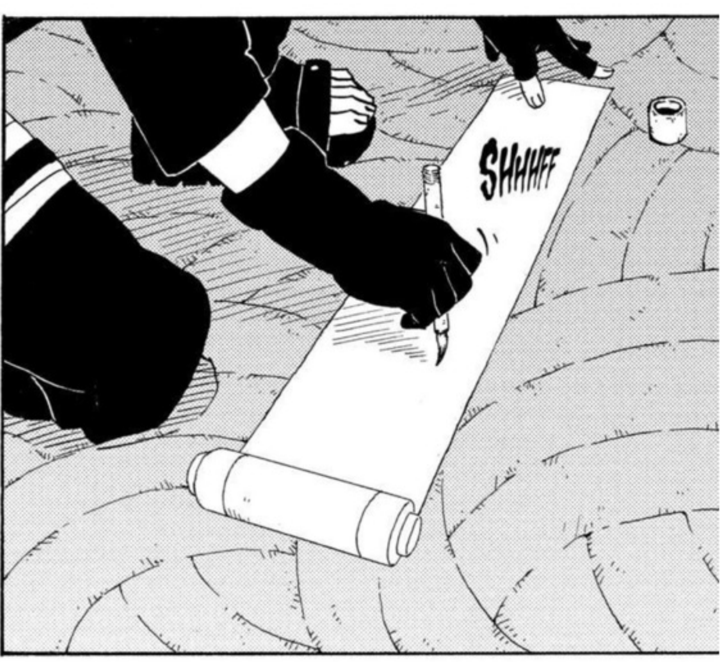

NARUTO'S CHAKRA.
SOME-THING'S UP... COME ON!


...


YES, SIR!



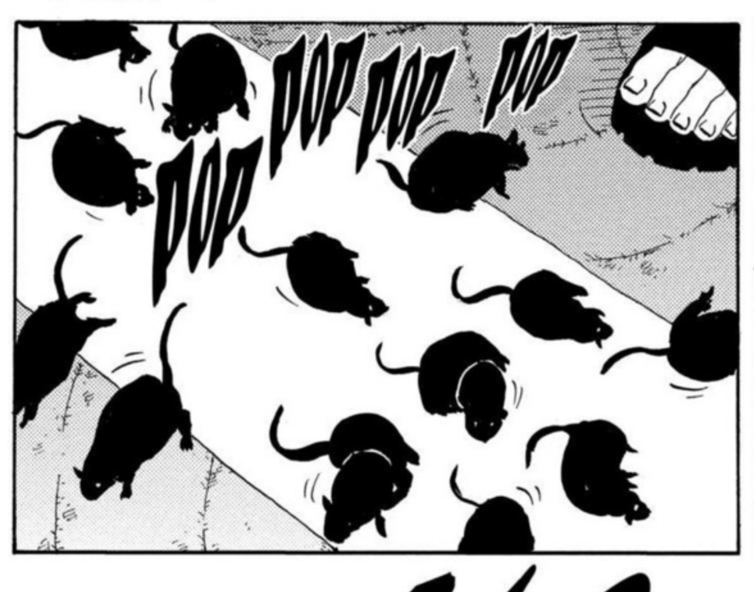

HNNH...


SHHHFF


SWISH SWISH SWISH







HUF

HUF

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL YOUR ENERGY ?

BOOF

HUF

HUF

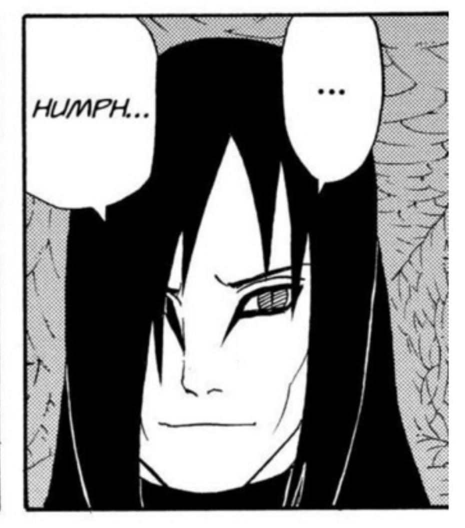
!

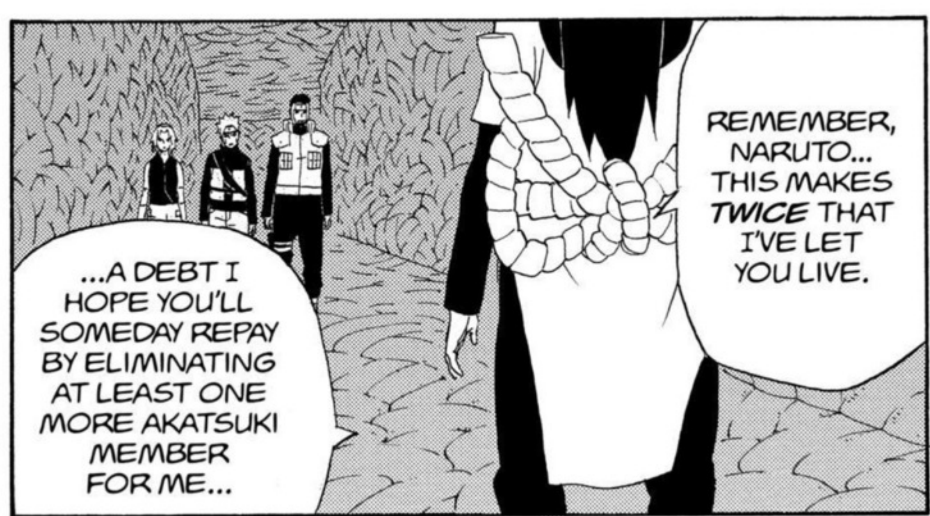
YOU AGAIN, OROCHI-MARU...

POP

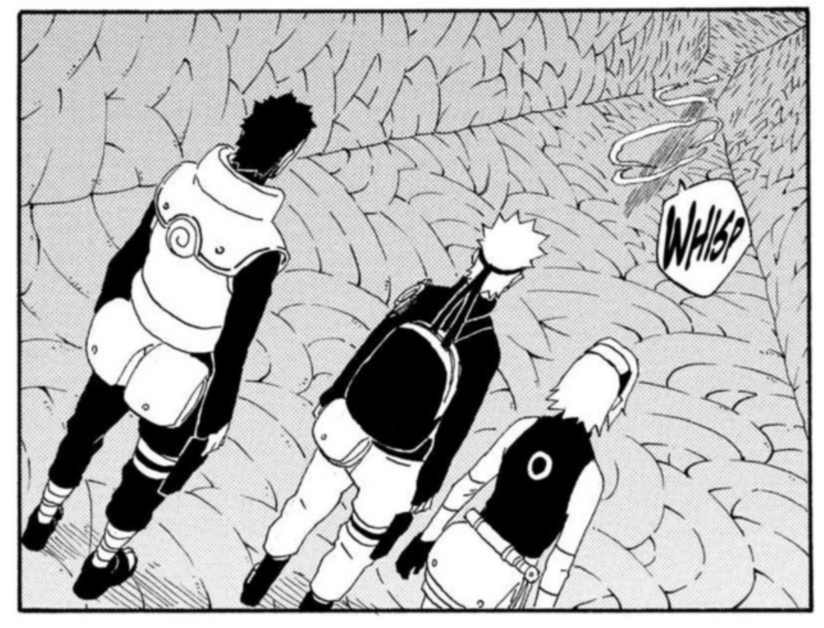
!

POP



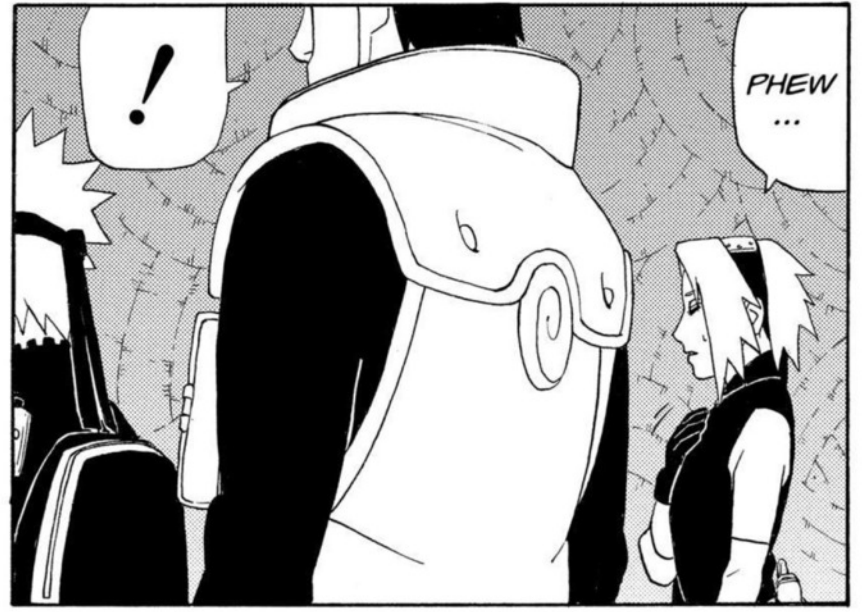







READ
THIS
WAY

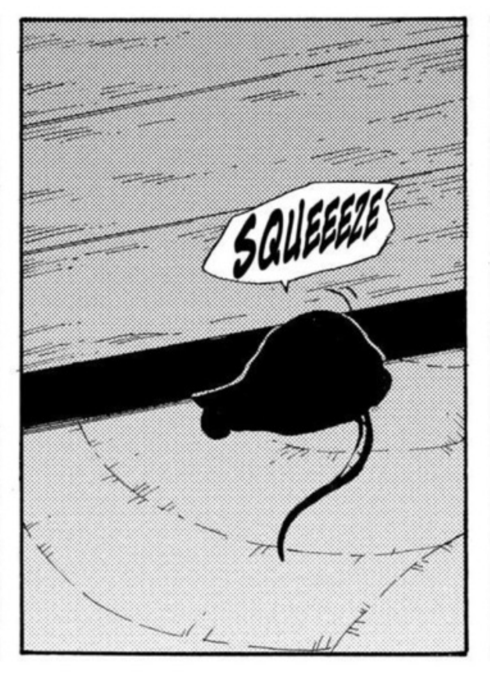

JERK
...!


PHEW
...
!


NARUTO, WHERE'S SAI?


OH NO... HE WENT TO LOOK FOR SASUKE!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND THEM BEFORE OROCHI-MARU DOES.

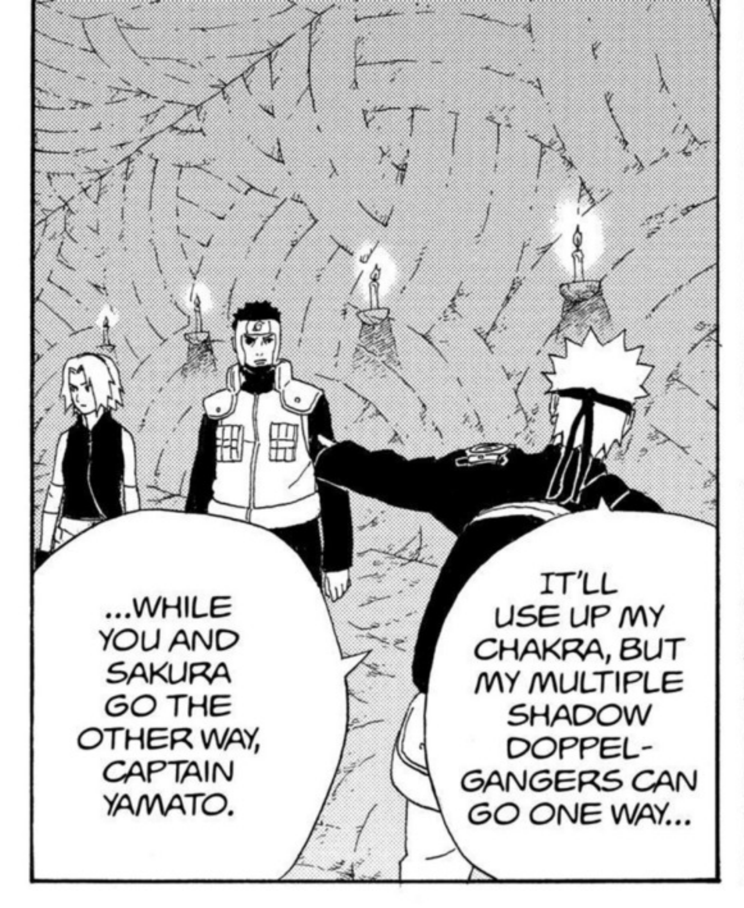



SQUEEEZE


SLIP...

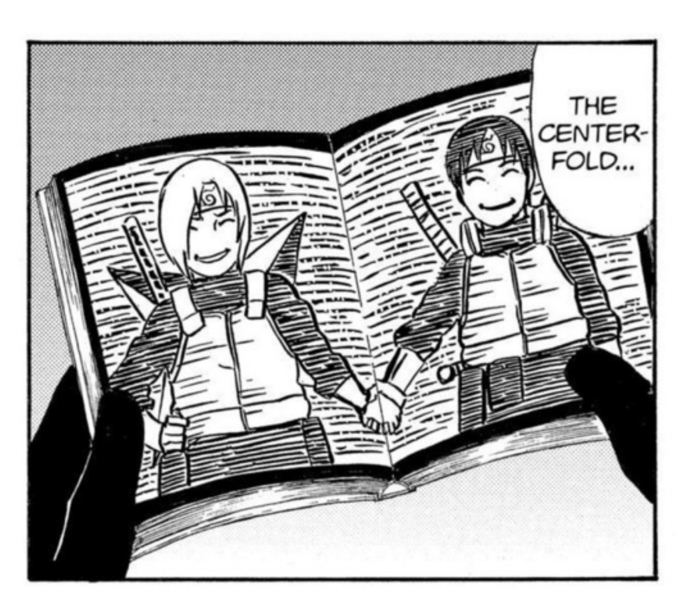





IT'LL USE UP MY CHAKRA, BUT MY MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS CAN GO ONE WAY...
...WHILE YOU AND SAKURA GO THE OTHER WAY, CAPTAIN YAMATO.


!

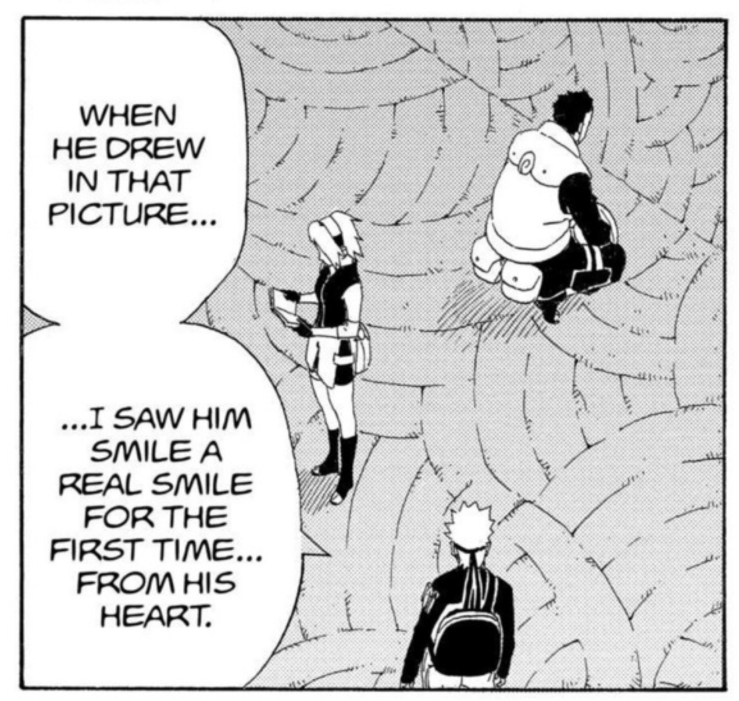



THE CENTER-FOLD...


YEAH...


HE FINALLY REMEM-BERED...
HE SAID THAT WAS THE DREAM DRAWING OF THE TWO OF THEM...
...THAT HE HAD WANTED TO SHOW HIS BROTHER.

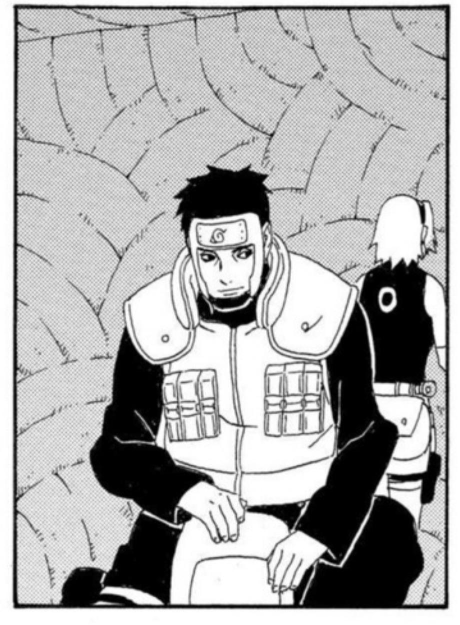

READ
THIS
WAY

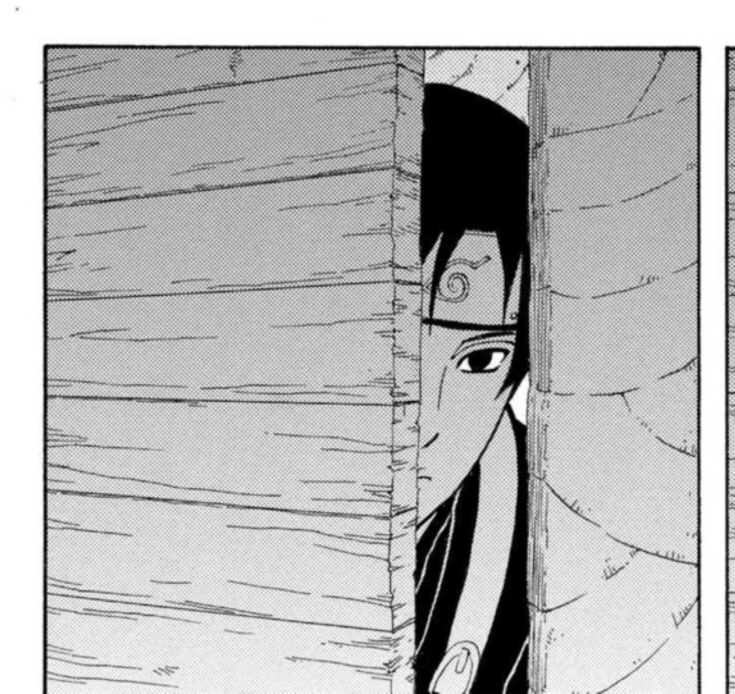

WHEN HE DREW IN THAT PICTURE...
...I SAW HIM SMILE A REAL SMILE FOR THE FIRST TIME... FROM HIS HEART.

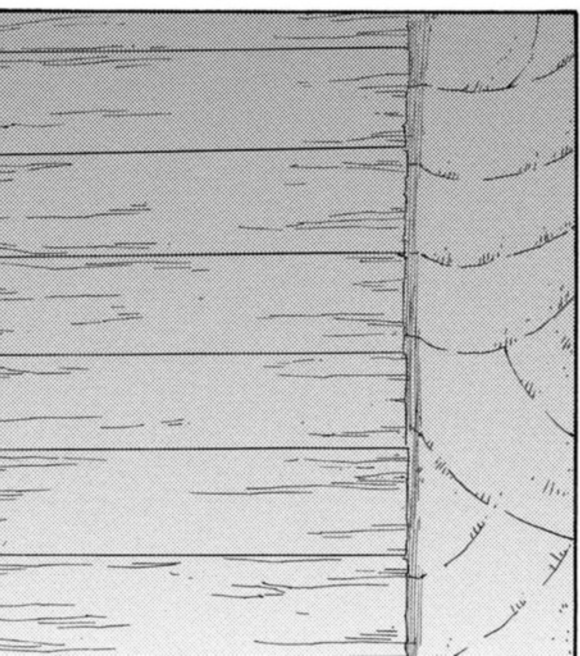

THEY'RE BOTH SMILING ...

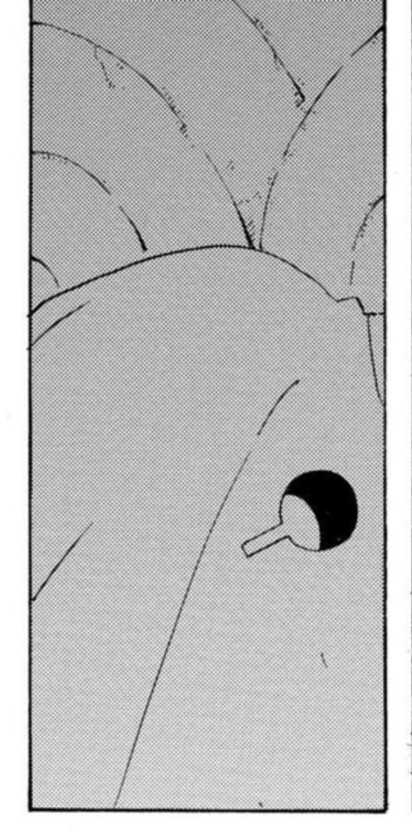
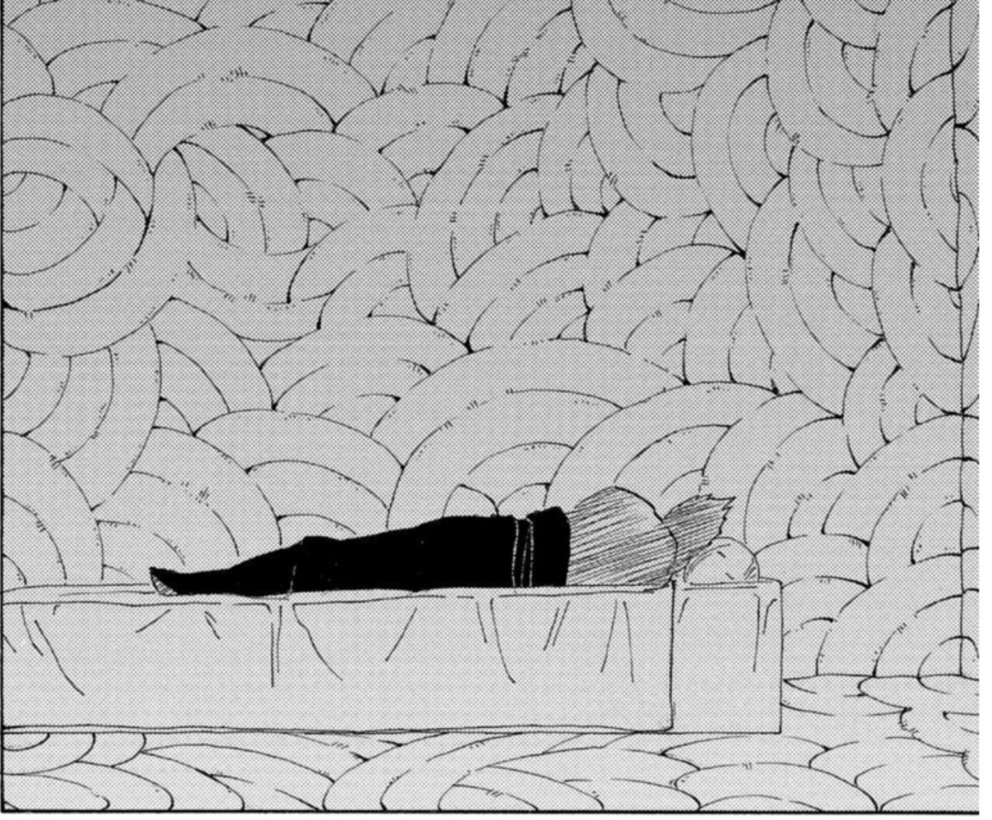
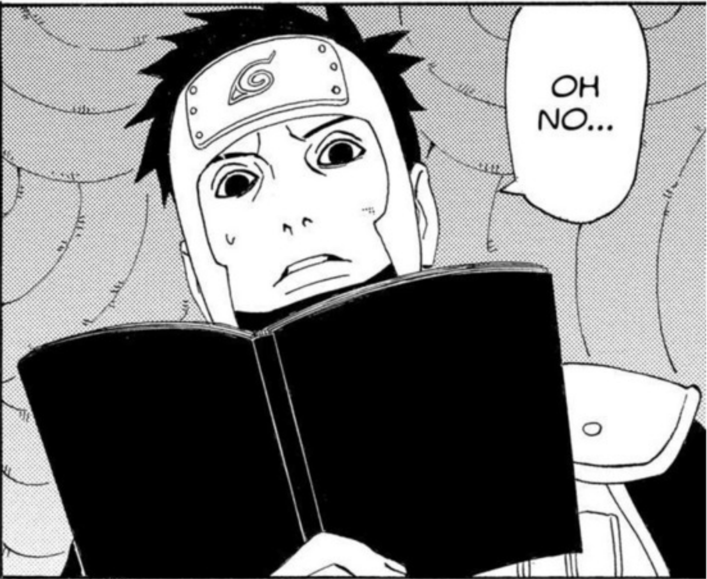
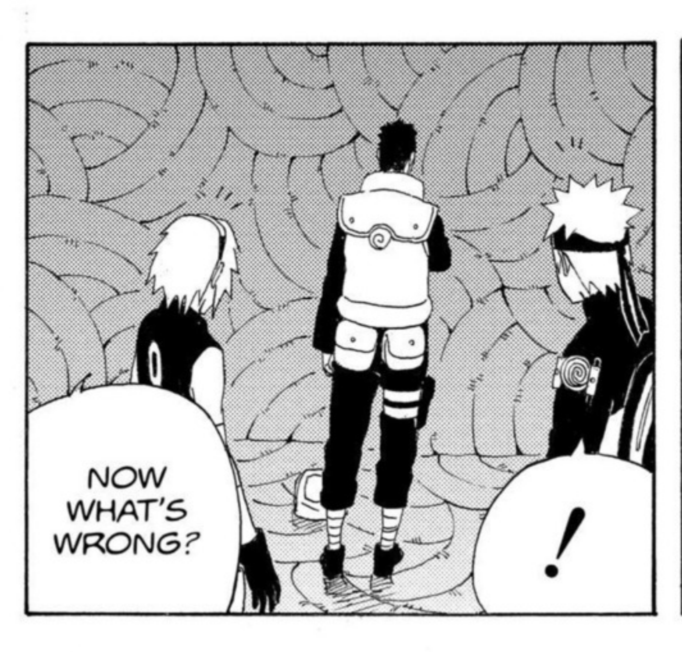


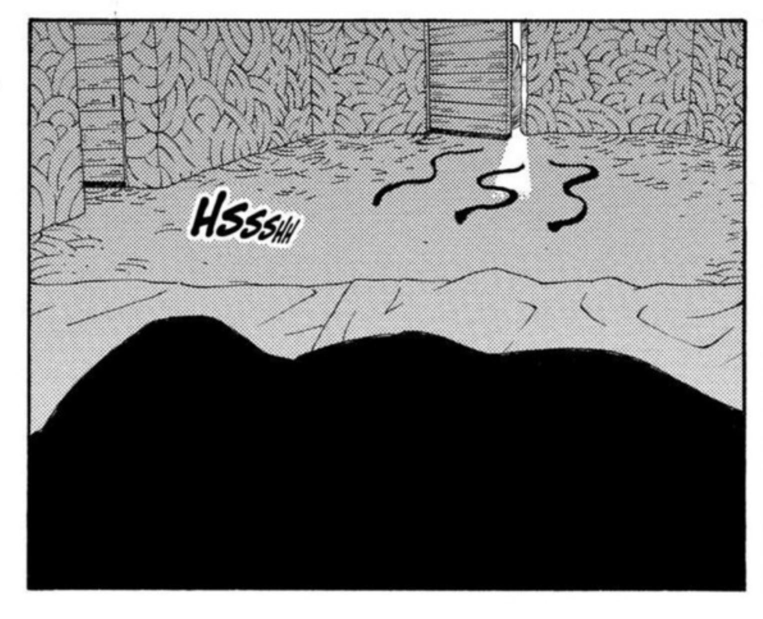

!







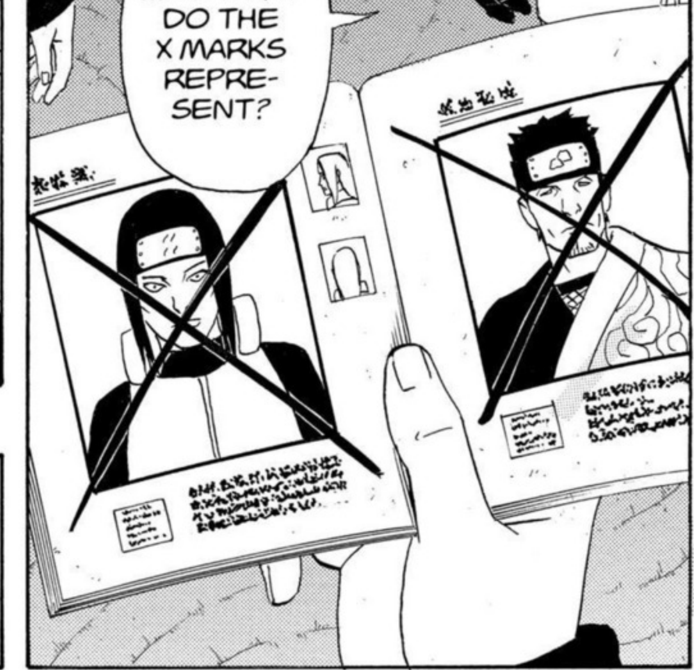



OH NO...

NOW WHAT'S WRONG?
!

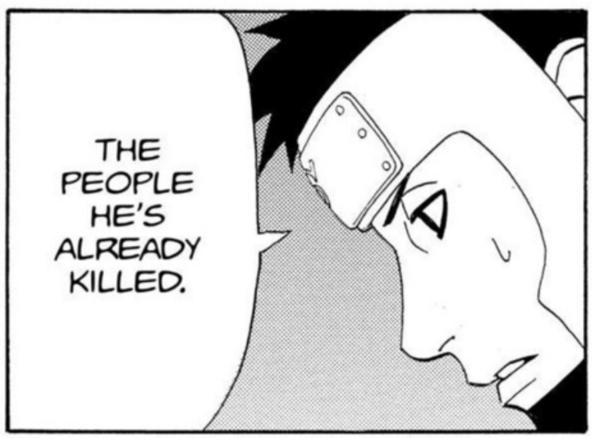
HSSSS

HSSSHH


READ
THIS
WAY

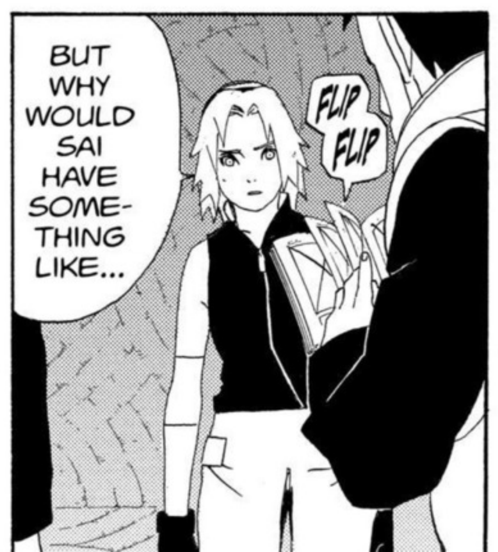

...I FOUND THIS IN SAI'S PACK...


THIS TYPE OF BINGO BOOK IS STANDARD ISSUE FOR BLACK OPS MEMBERS.
IT LISTS ONE'S TARGETS FOR ASSASSI-NATION.
AN ASSASSI-NATION LIST?

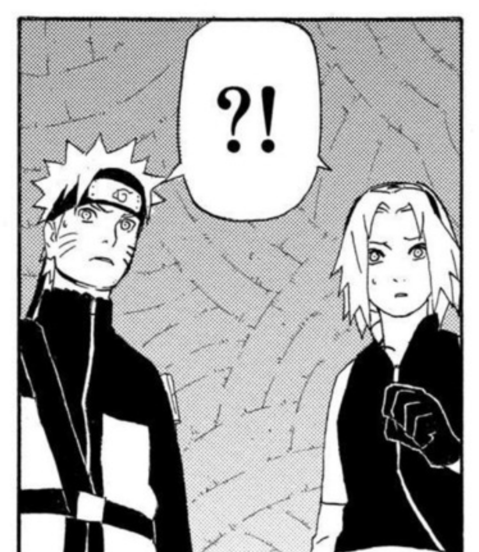

...SO WHAT DO THE X MARKS REPRE-SENT?


THE PEOPLE HE'S ALREADY KILLED.


...


BUT WHY WOULD SAI HAVE SOME-THING LIKE...
FLIP FLIP


!


?!

Uchiha Sasuke

LOOK...





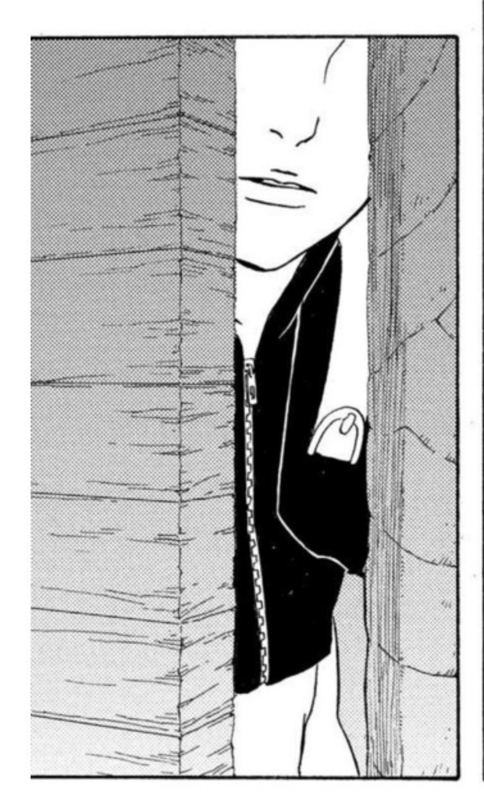


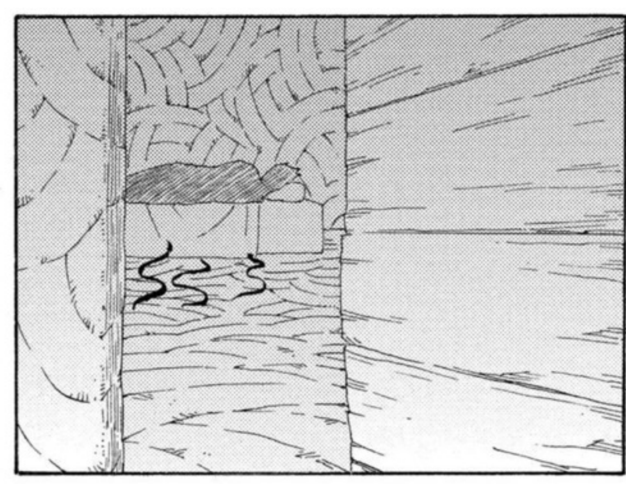


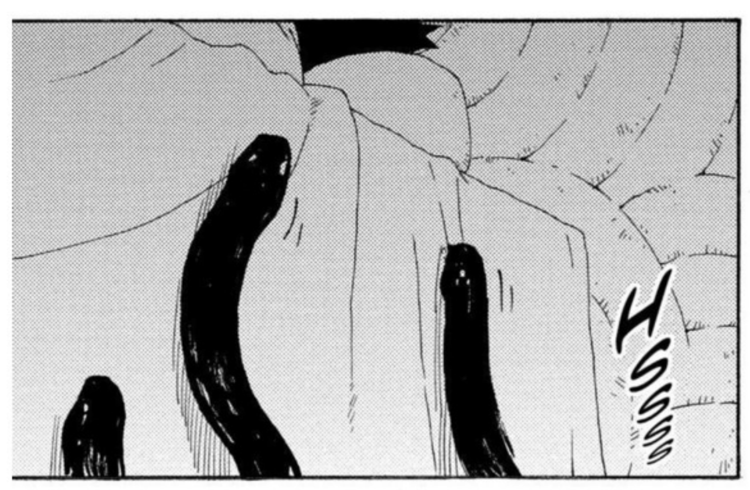


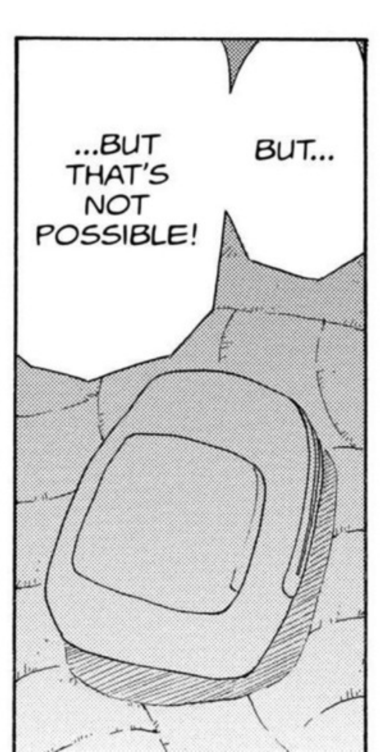



...IS TO ASSASSINATE SASUKE.



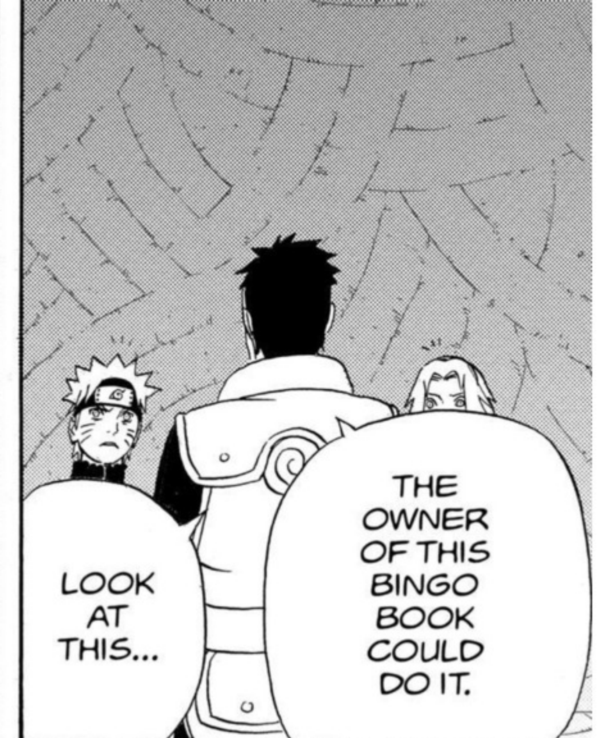



HSSSS


BUT...
...BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!


I MEAN, JUST NOW HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO RESCUE SASUKE...!
AND I SAW HIM SMILE FROM HIS HEART...
...I REALLY THINK HE'S CHANGED...


UNLESS IT WAS ALL JUST AN ACT TO DRAW YOU OUT...

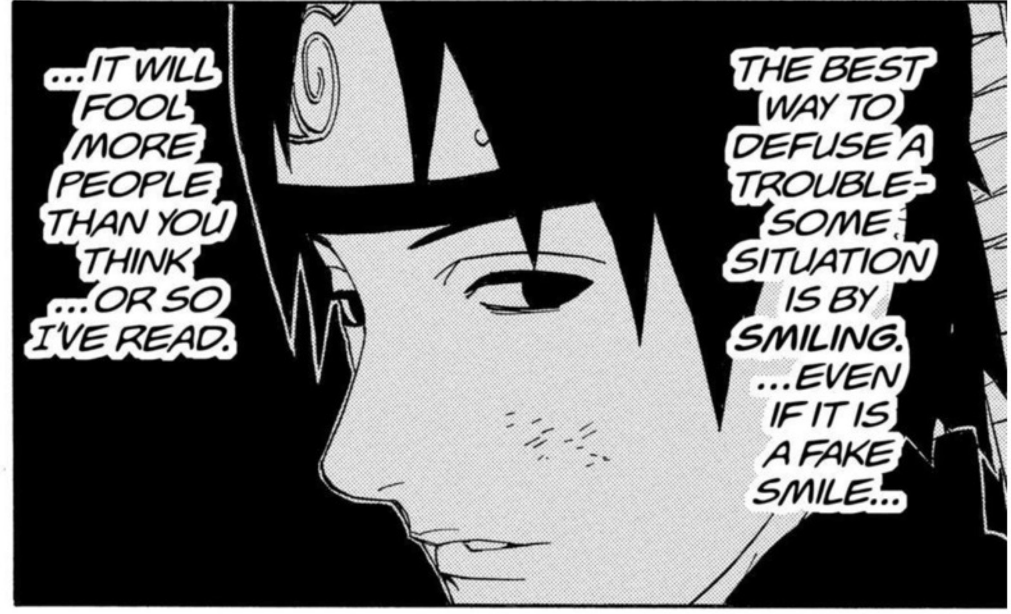

THE OWNER OF THIS BINGO BOOK COULD DO IT.
LOOK AT THIS...


Uchiha Sasuke
THIS FELLOW LISTED NEXT TO SASUKE...
HE'S A KIRIGAKURE JÔNIN WHO HAD TAKEN A HARD-LINE ATTITUDE TOWARD KONOHA...


SO SAI SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO DISPOSE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO POSE A THREAT TO KONOHA...
...AND SASUKE IS ONE OF THOSE TOO...


...


A SMILE CAN HELP ONE ACHIEVE ONE'S GOALS...
THAT REMINDS ME... THAT TIME I SLUGGED SAI...


THE BEST WAY TO DEFUSE A TROUBLESOME SITUATION IS BY SMILING. ...EVEN IF IT IS A FAKE SMILE...
...IT WILL FOOL MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU THINK ...OR SO I'VE READ.


...


DANZO'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO DESTROY OROCHIMARU'S FUTURE HOST BODY.
THAT'S WHY SAI WAS TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO OROCHI-MARU.
THEY WEREN'T GOING TO BETRAY KONOHA. IN FACT, QUITE THE OPPOSITE...
...IT'S PRECISELY THE KIND OF TACTIC THE FOUNDA-TION WOULD EMPLOY.

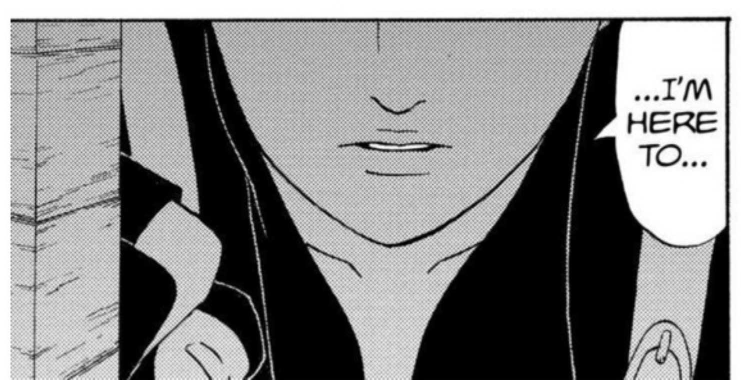

THEN WHAT ARE WE WAIT-ING FOR?! LET'S GO FIND SAI!




...WHO'S THERE?


MY COVER'S BEEN BLOWN...
...BUT I CAN STILL TAKE ACTION...


WHAT DO YOU WANT?


...I'M HERE TO...

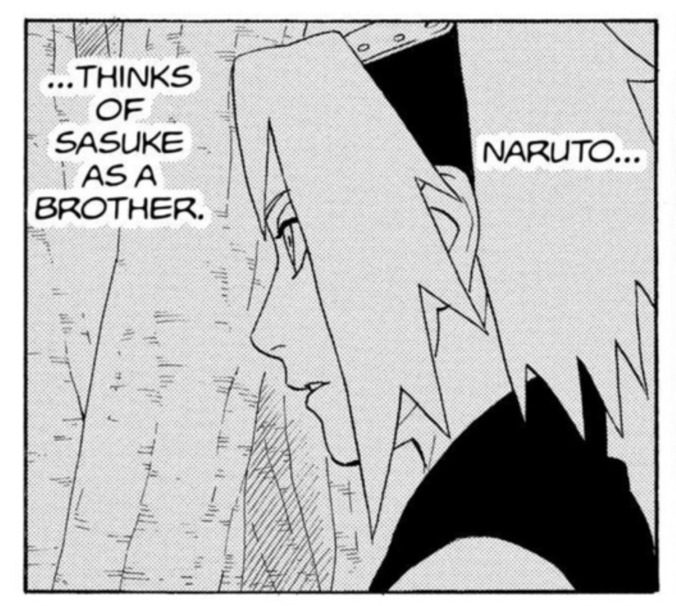
...TAKE YOU BACK TO KONOHA!



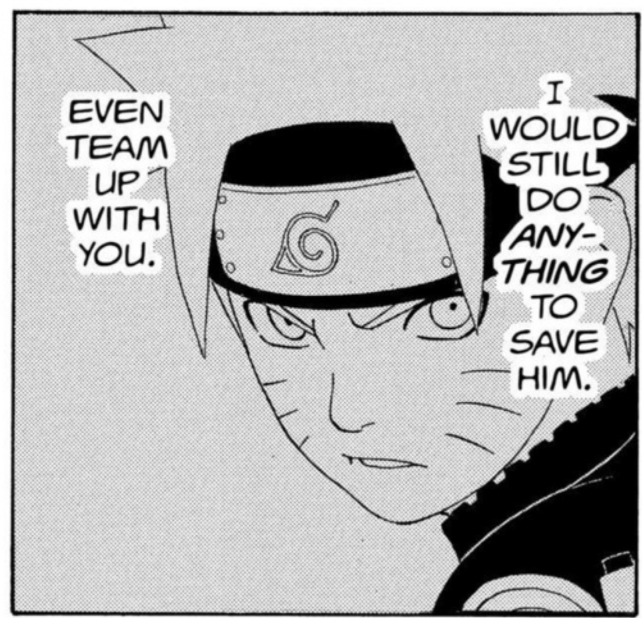




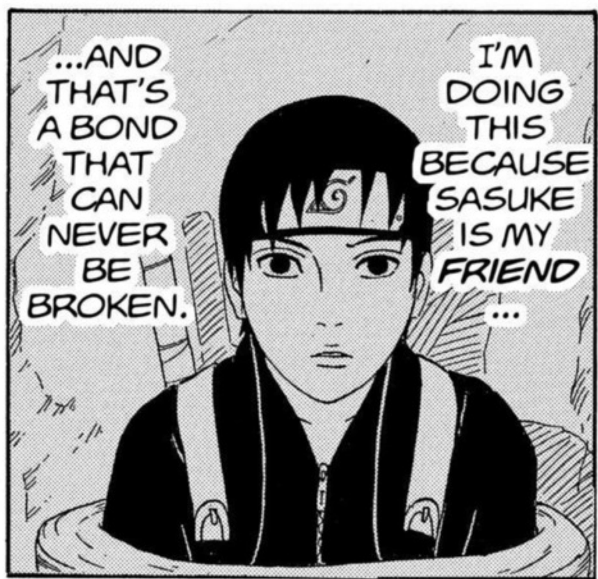


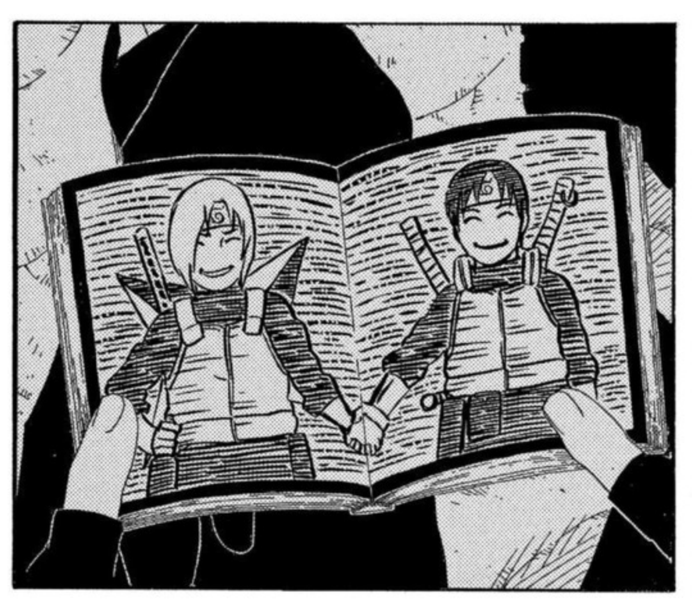



READ THIS WAY


I WOULD STILL DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HIM.
EVEN TEAM UP WITH YOU.

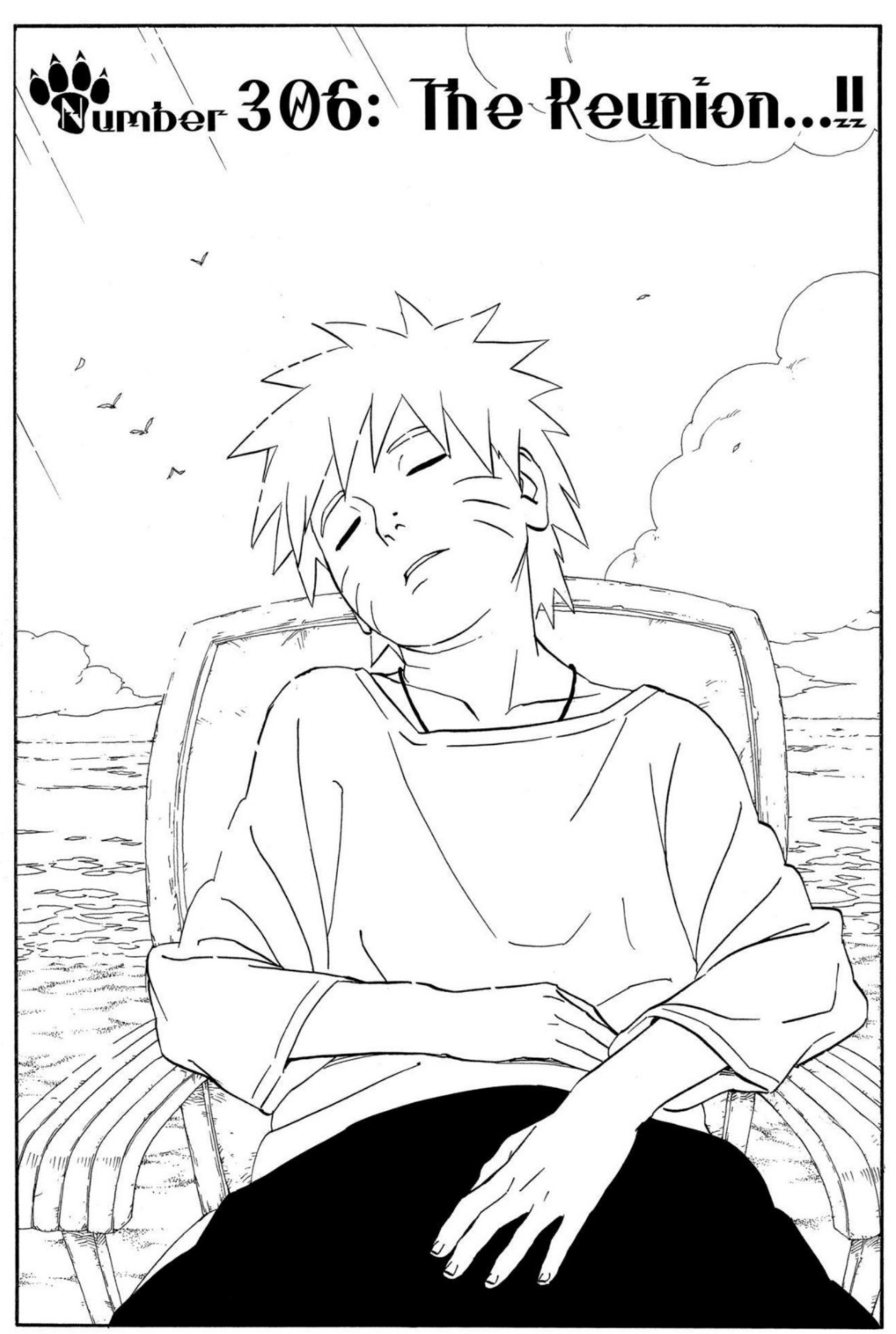

LET OROCHI-MARU TRY AND CUT ME TO PIECES...
...I'LL STILL FIND A WAY TO STEAL SASUKE BACK!


I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE SASUKE IS MY FRIEND...
...AND THAT'S A BOND THAT CAN NEVER BE BROKEN.




...I WANT TO HELP PROTECT THIS BOND YOU TWO SHARE...
...THAT NARUTO SO DES-PERATELY WANTS TO HOLD ON TO.

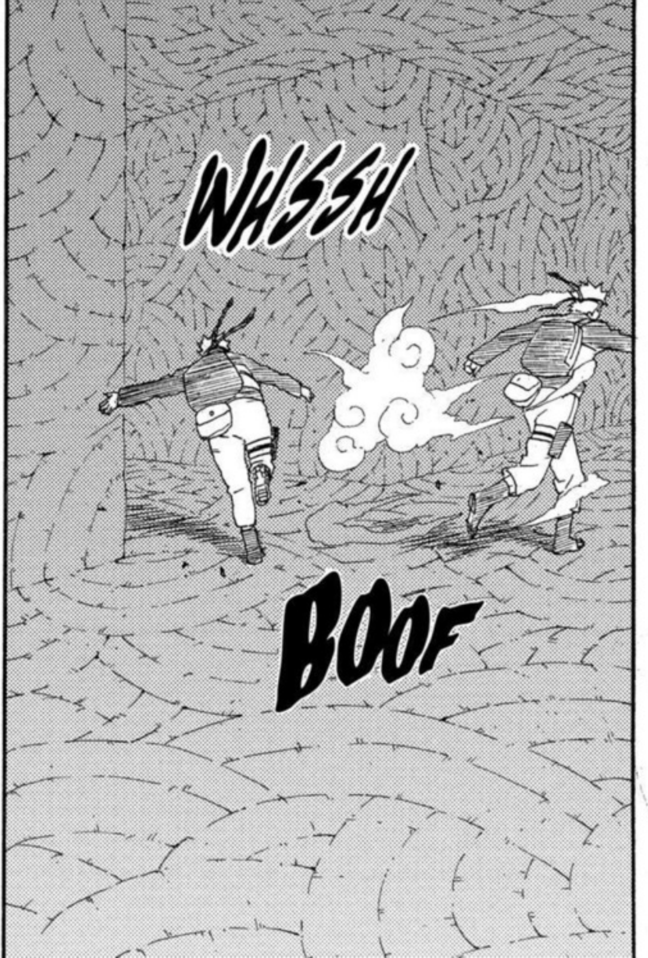

NARUTO


Number 306: The Reunion...!!

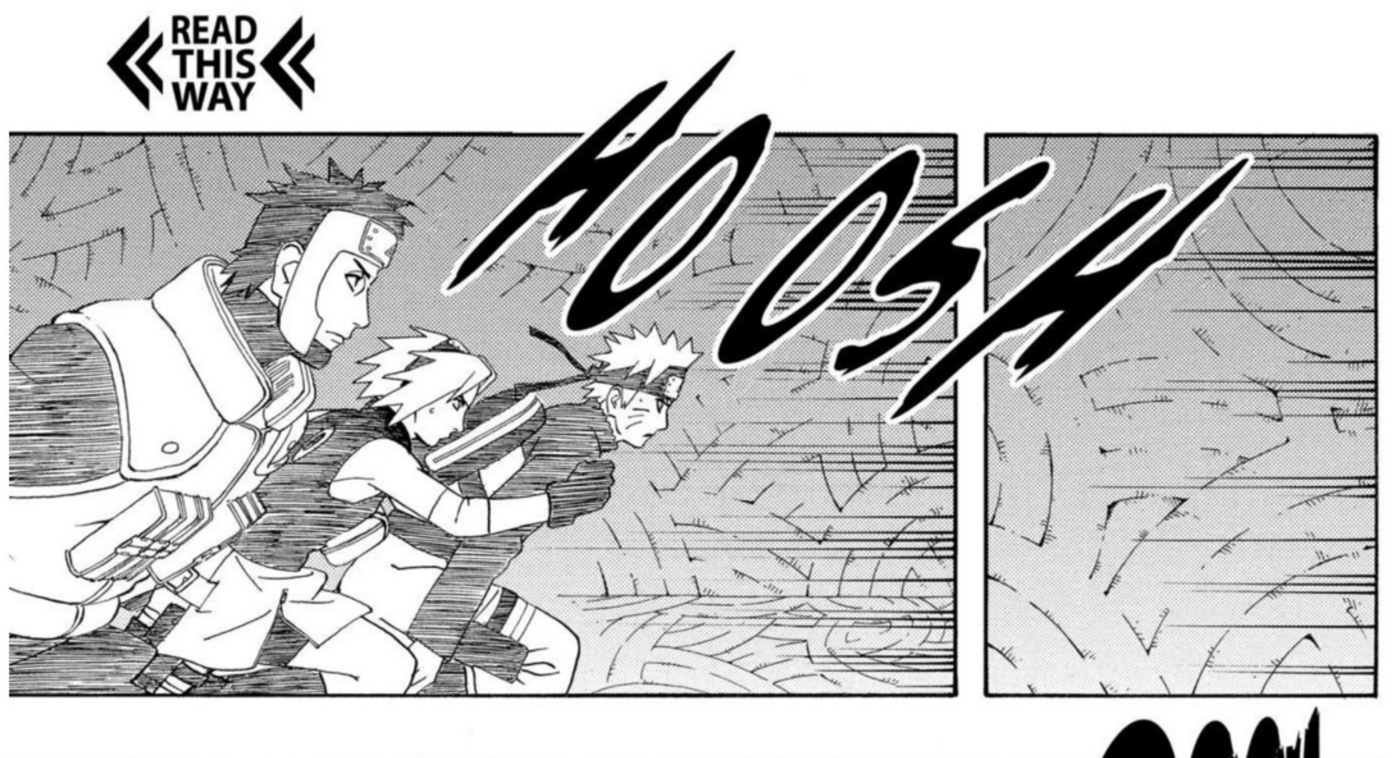

...

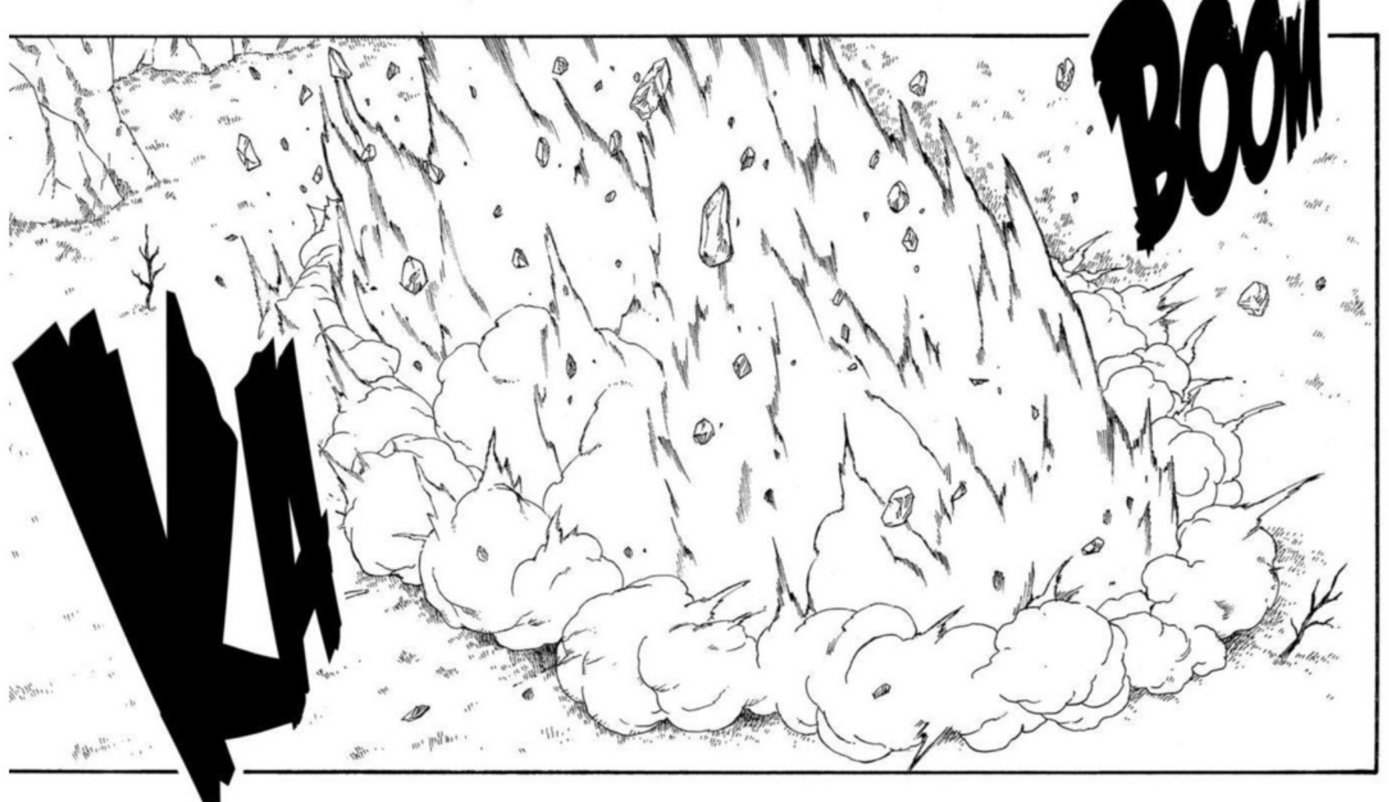
A BOND ...?

THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE...
...FOR DISTURBING MY REST?

HOOOM

WHSSH
BOOF


READ THIS WAY

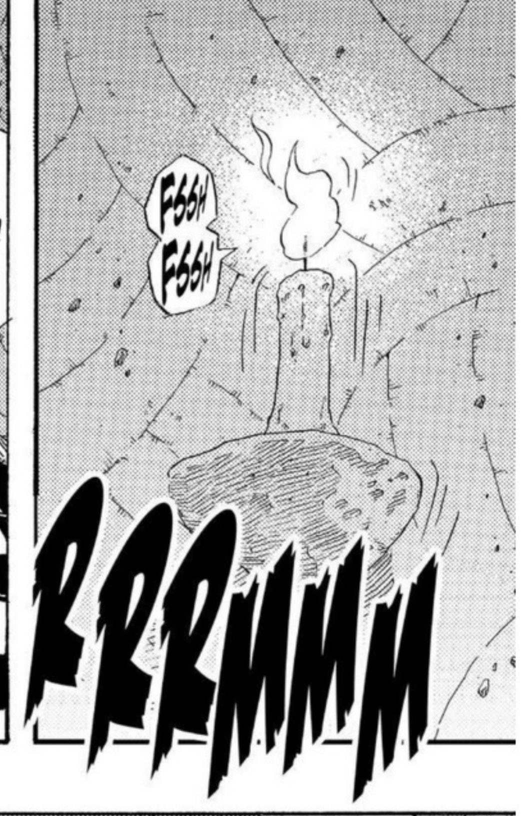








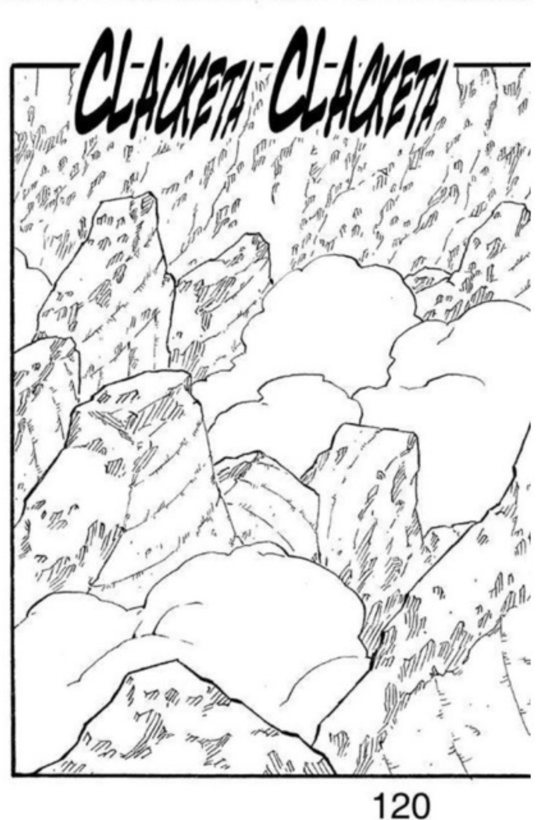


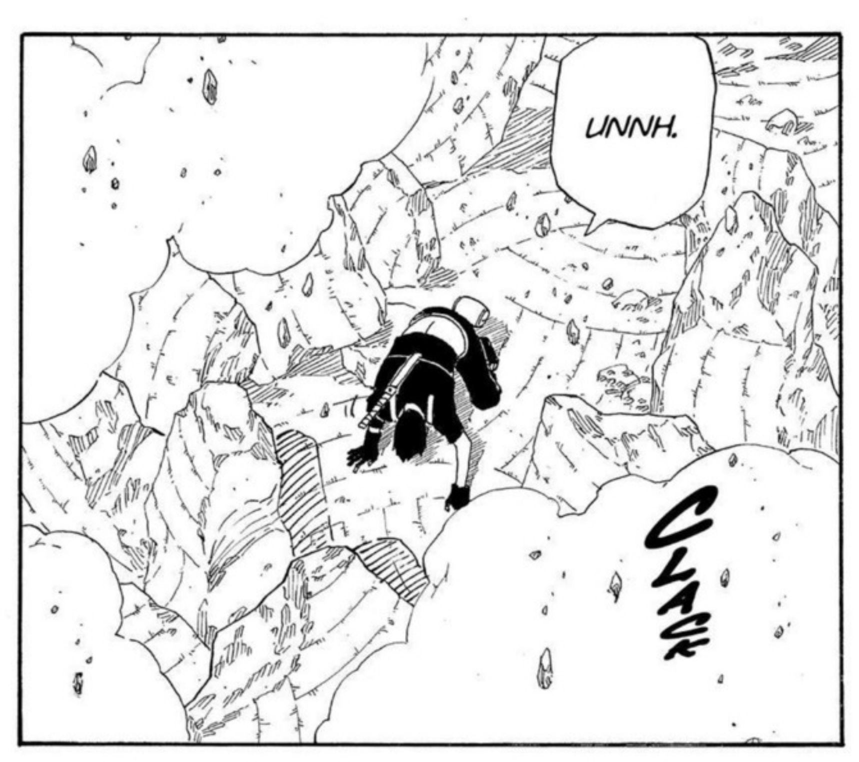

FSSH FSSH
RRRMMM


WHAT?!
RUMBLE
?!
RUMBLE
...

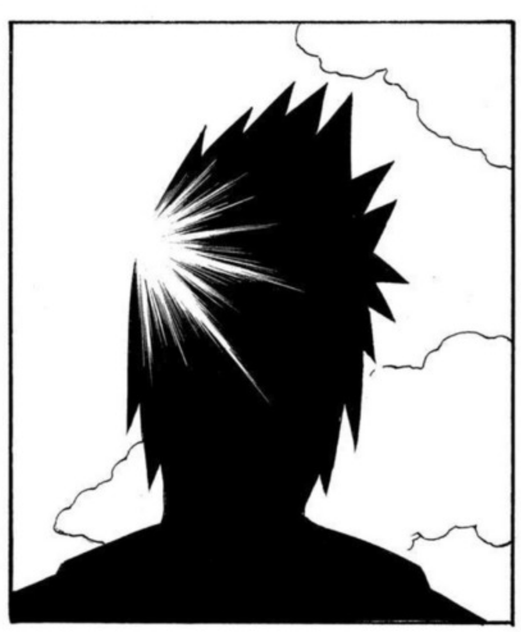

...IT CAME FROM THAT WAY.
I SENSE SAI'S CHAKRA.


...!


CLACKETA CLACKETA


UNNH.
CLACK


!




WOW...
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO SHAKE OFF MY JUTSU SO FORCIBLY.
HUP




WHS SH
WHSSH
!
PONK
SAI...
TAP
TAP
FOUND YOU...!


READ THIS WAY



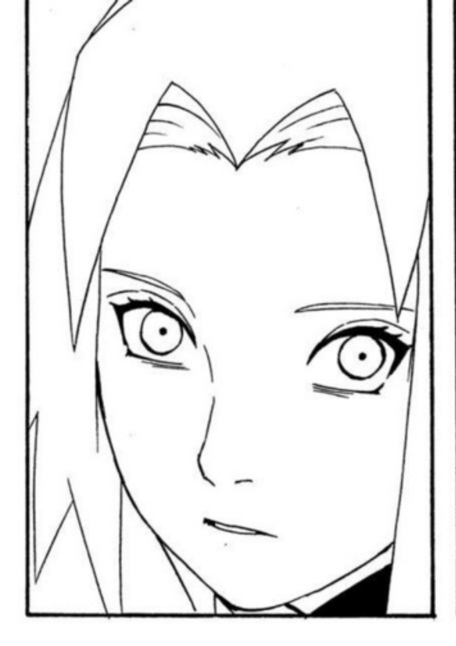

WHSSH
!
!

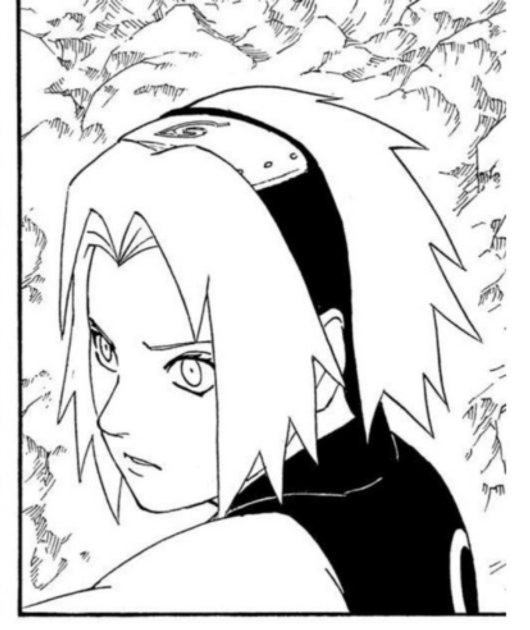
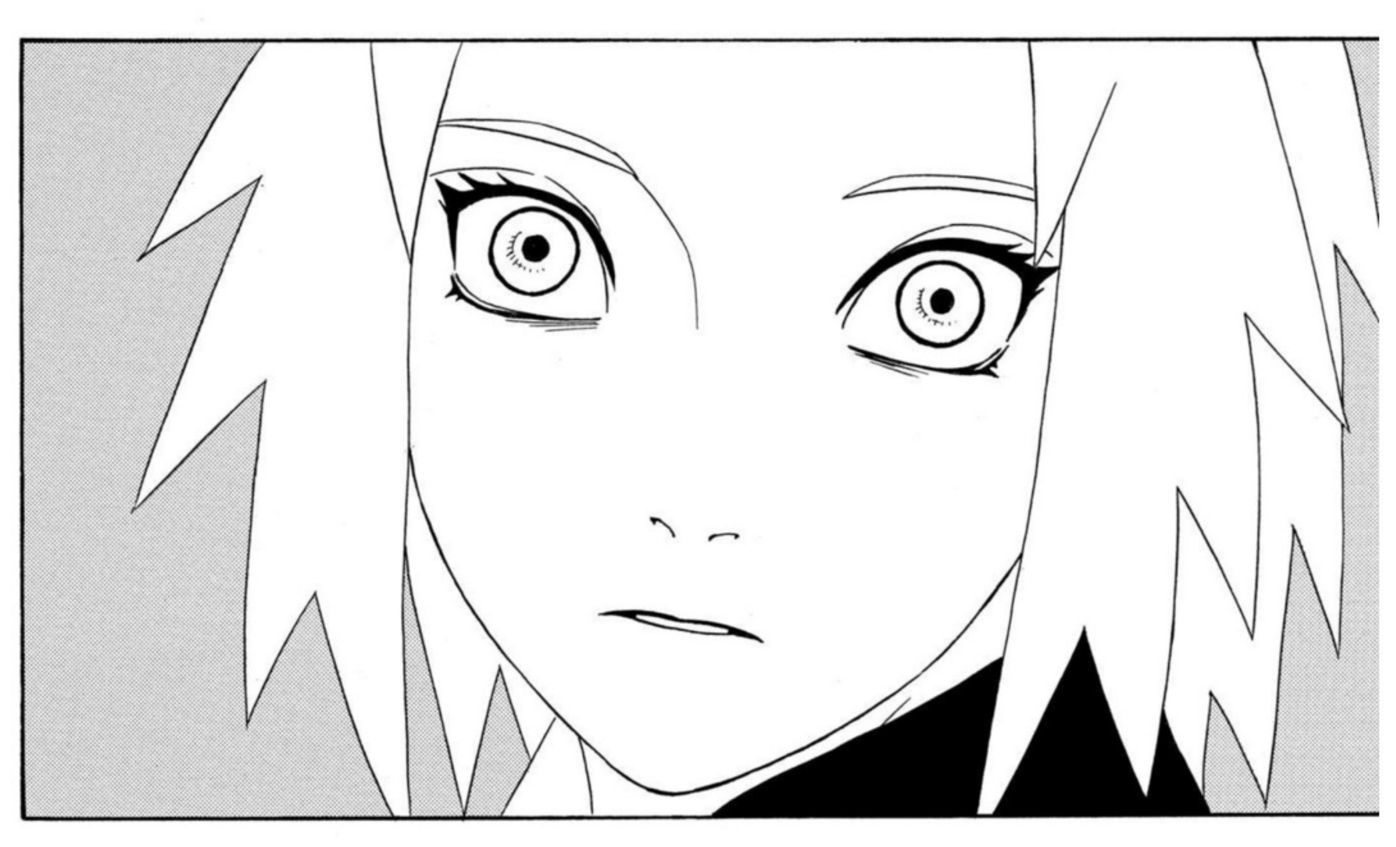

CRUNCH


FAP
SAKURA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!




QUIET, YOU! I'M ASKING THE QUES- TIONS HERE!
AND THIS TIME, YOU BETTER NOT LIE!
WELL, WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T SAKURA ...
!



...THAT VOICE!...



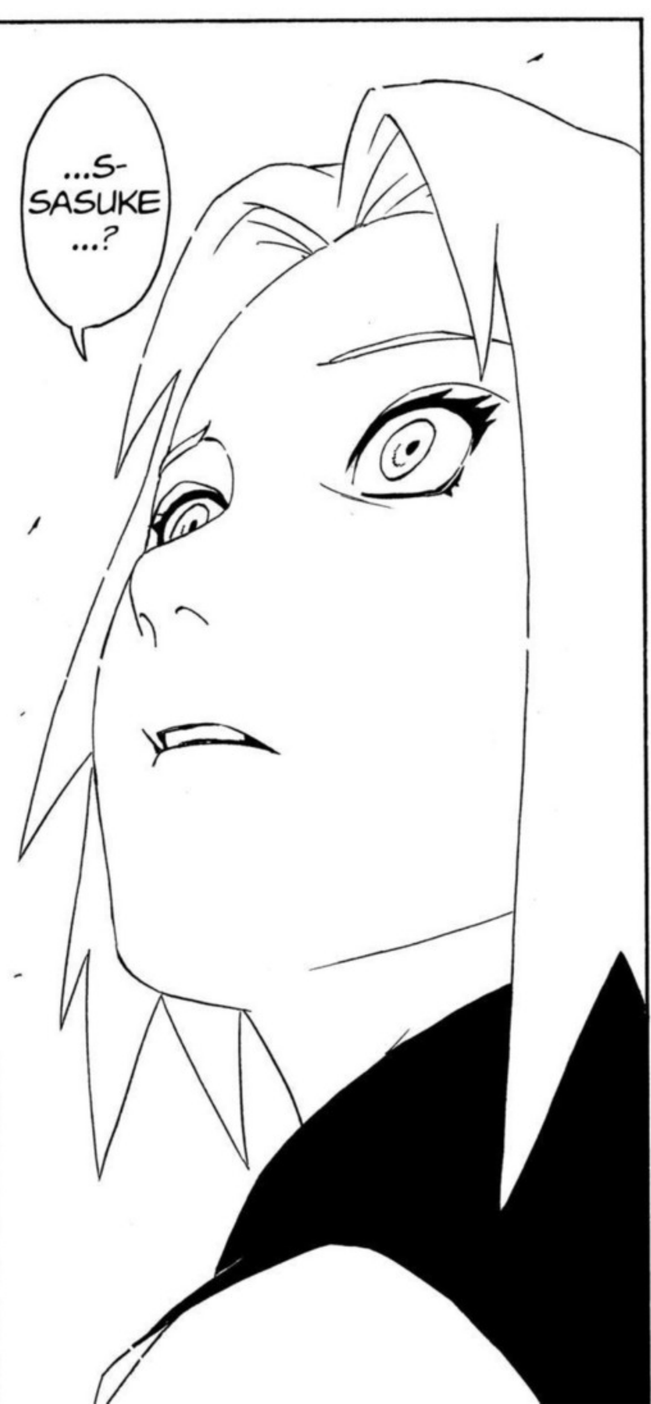


READ THIS WAY


FUP


?!
?!


...


...S-SASUKE ...?



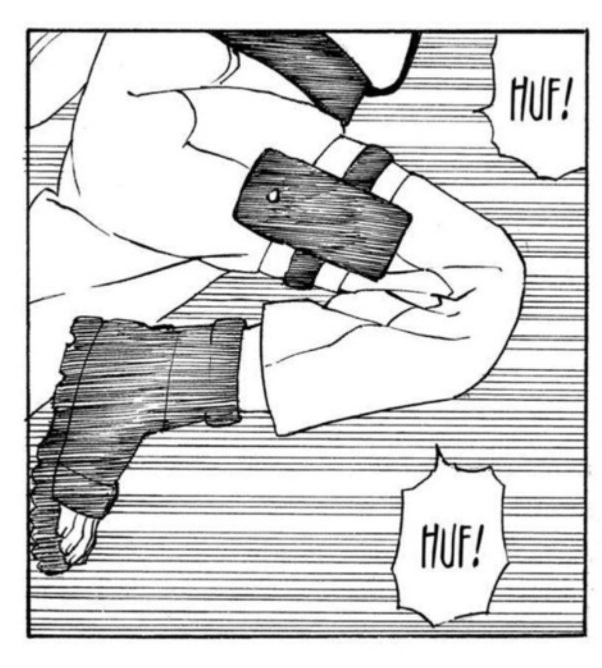
...


WHSSH

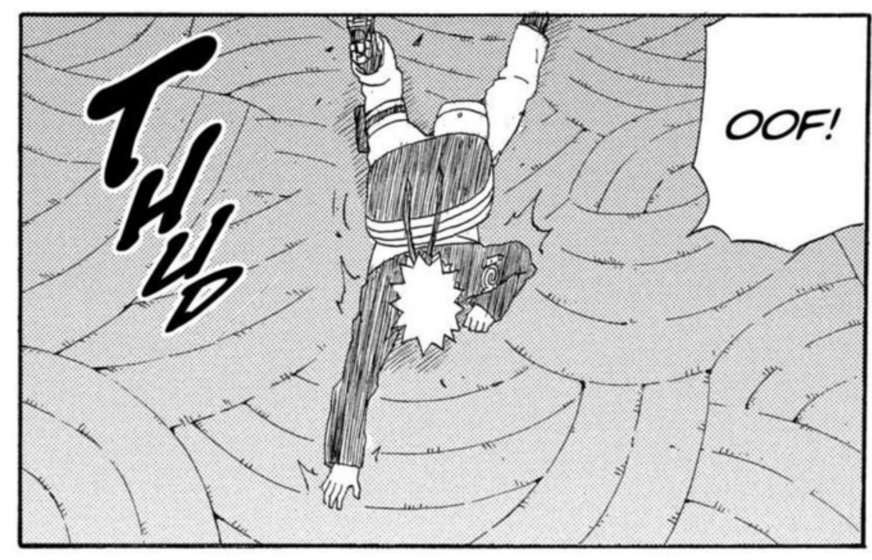

...

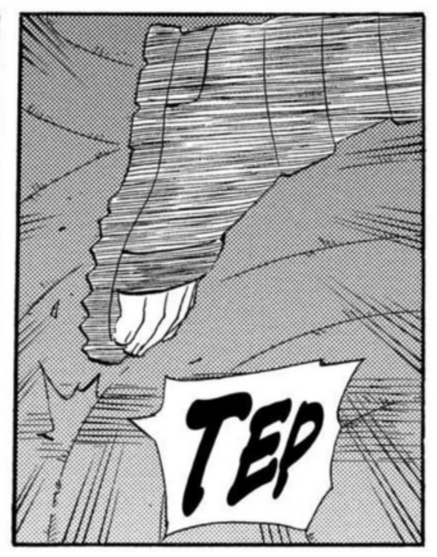

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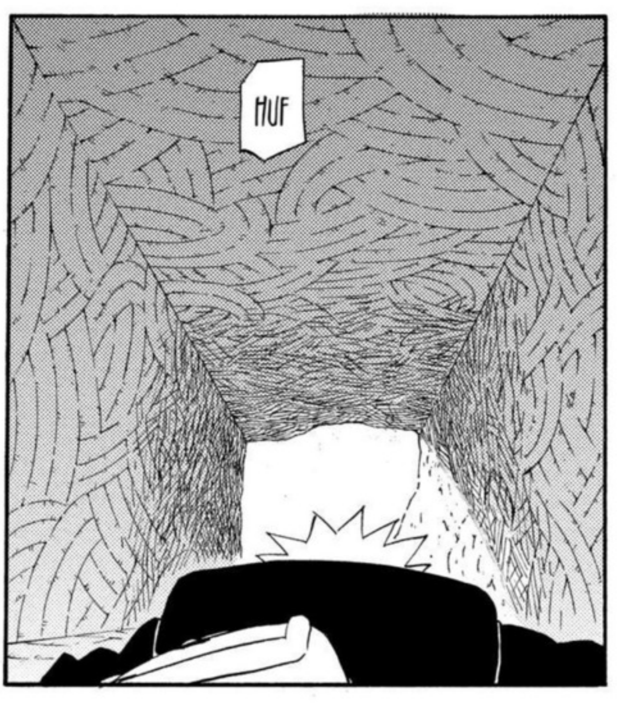

....!

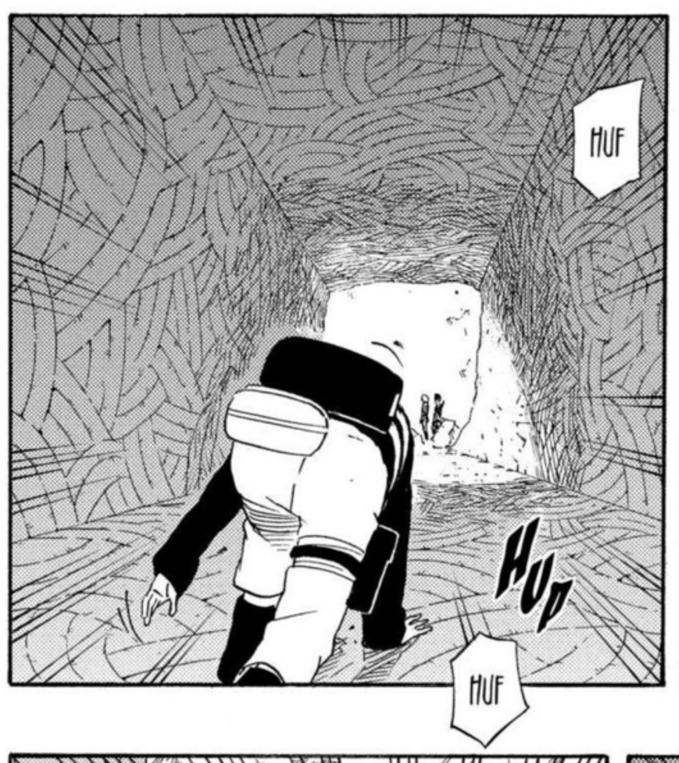

HUF!
HUF!


READ
THIS
WAY


OOF!
THUD


TEP

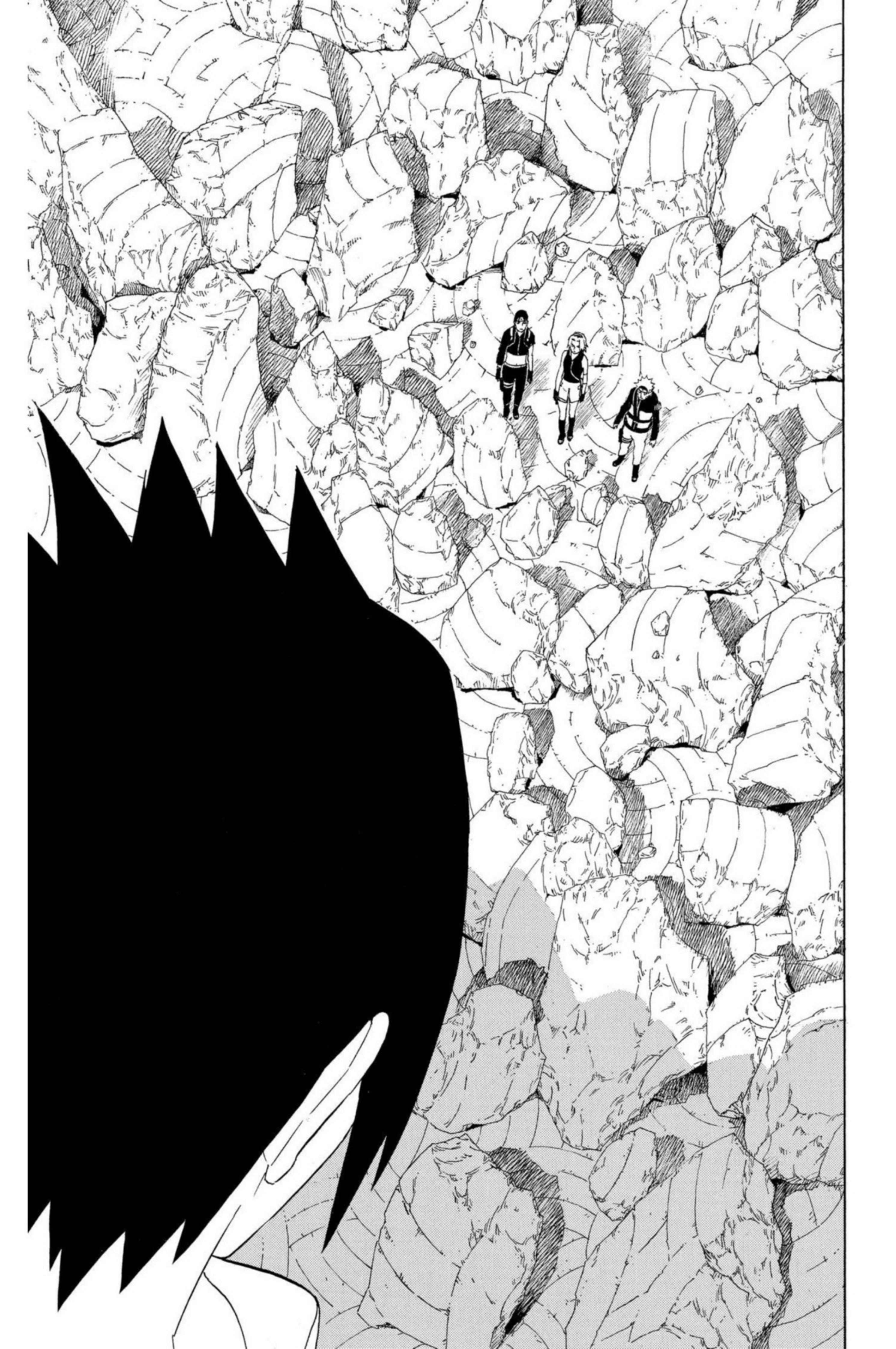

HUF

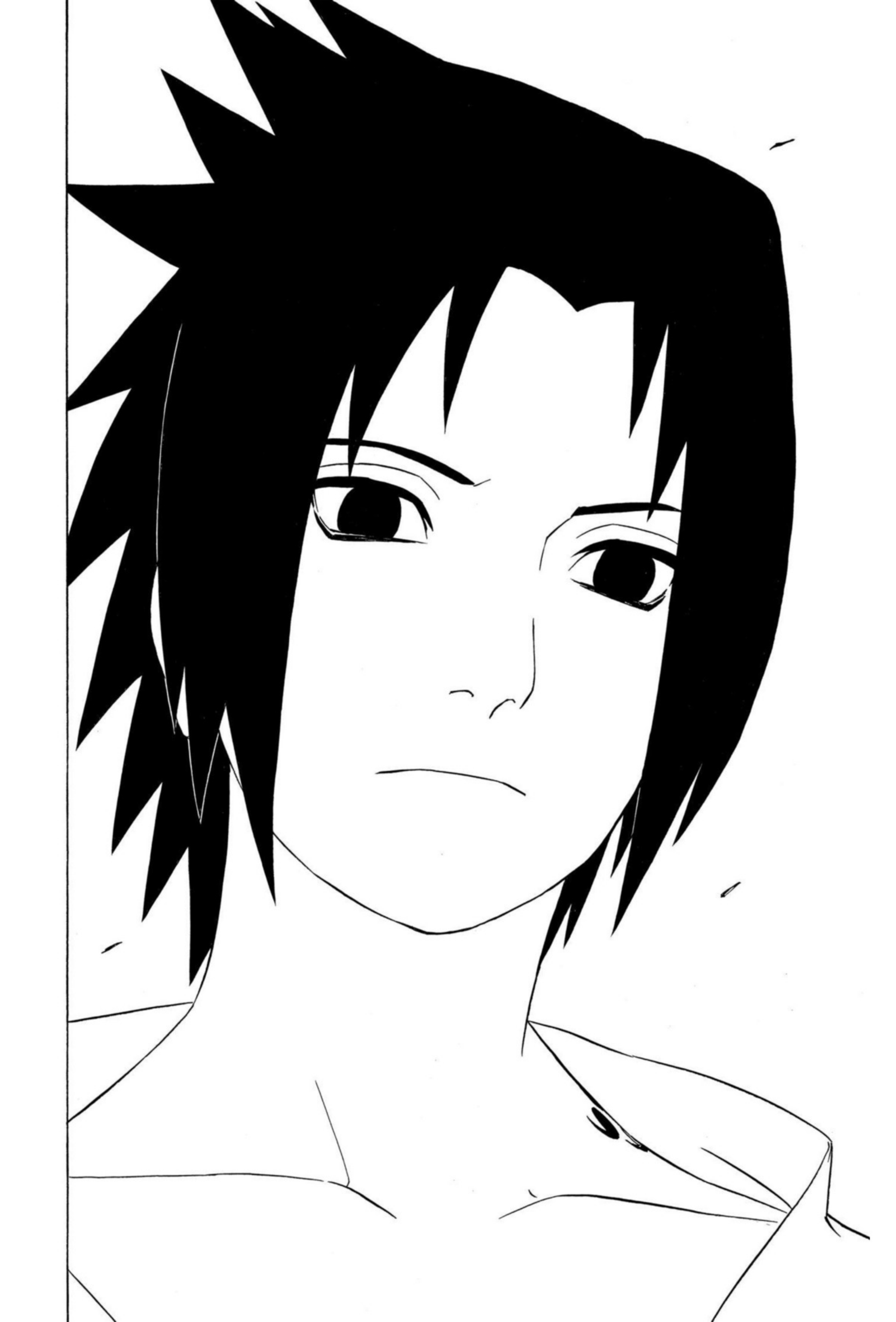

HUF
HUP
HUF


WHSH
HUF

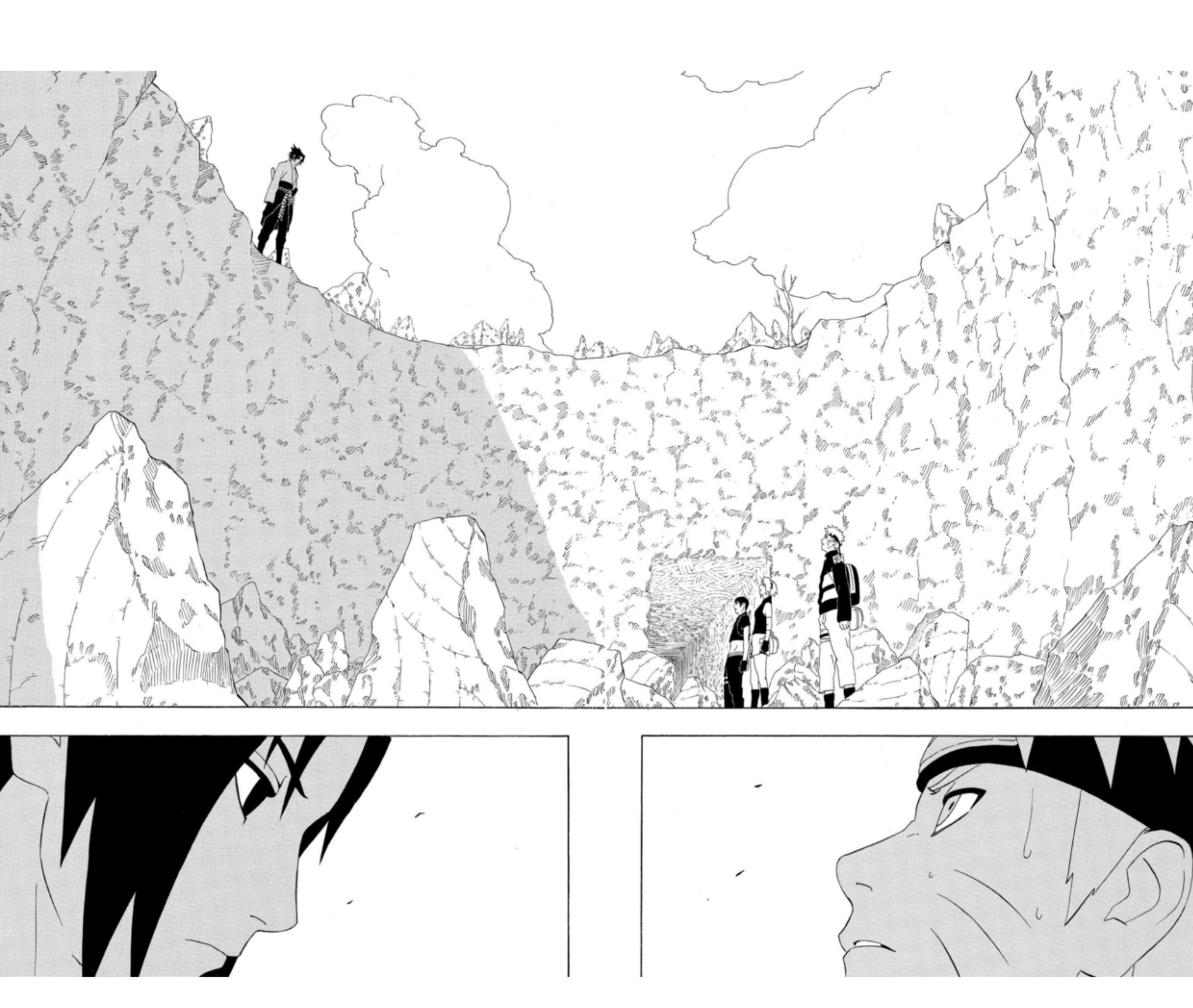

HUF



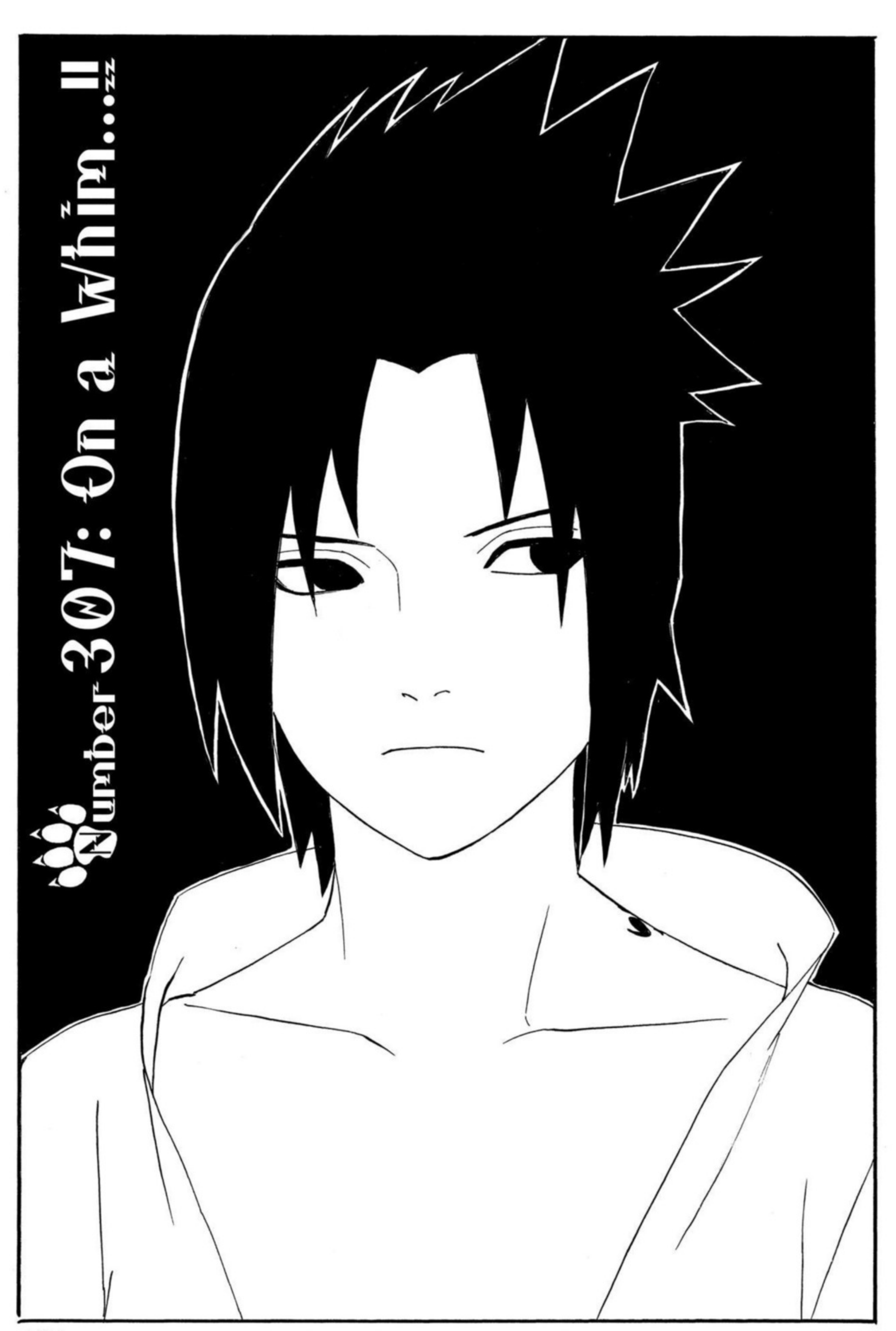




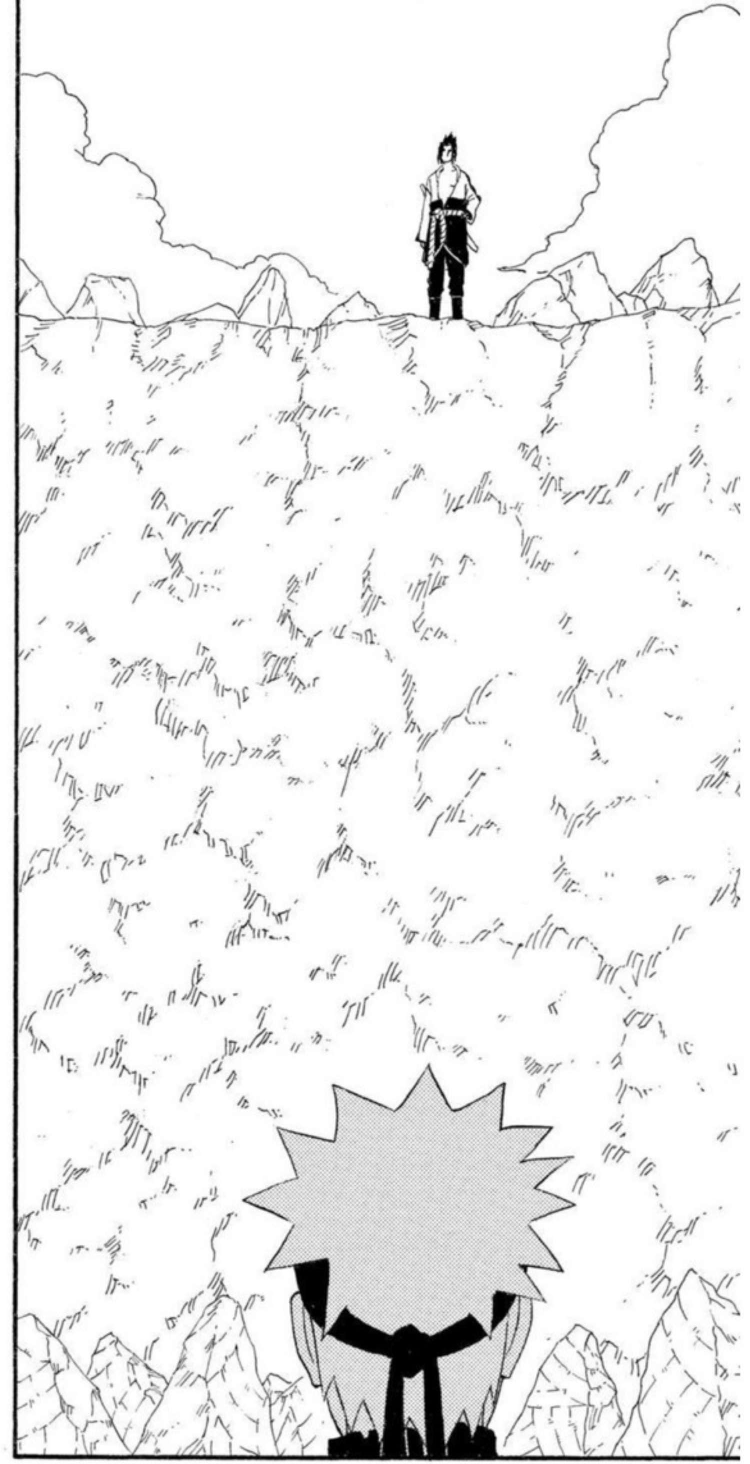

... SASUKE ...



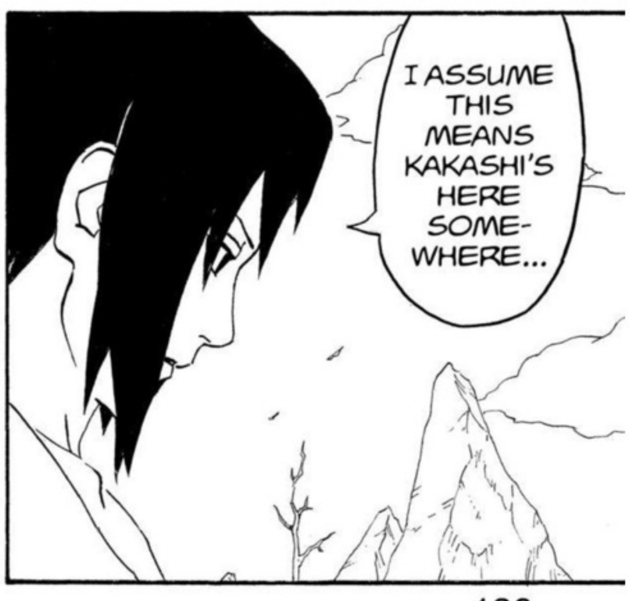



Number 307: On a Whim...!!


SO, NARUTO ...
...YOU CAME TOO.



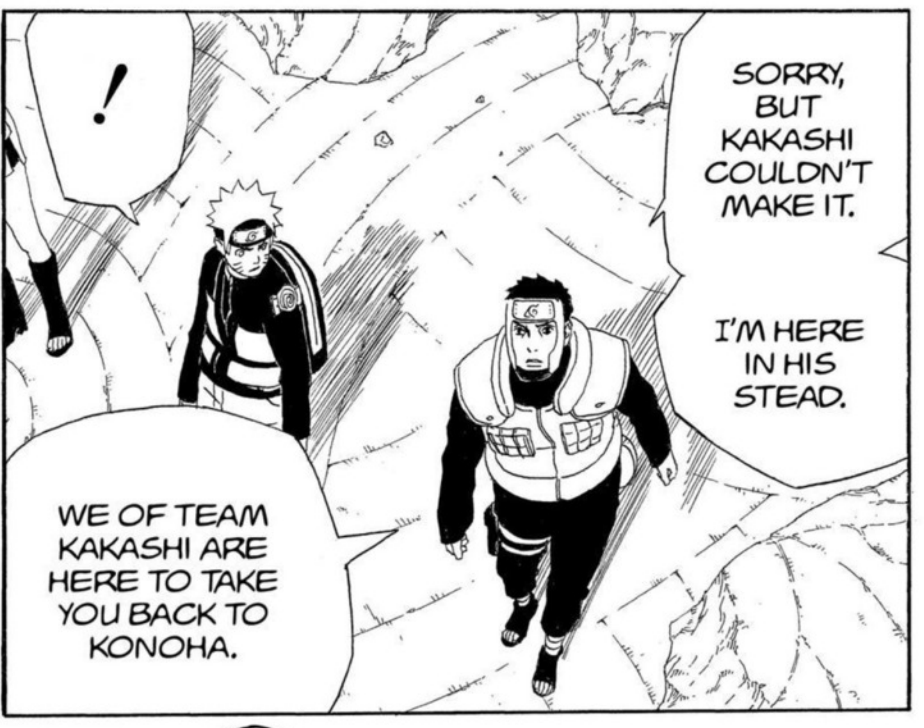

...


I ASSUME THIS MEANS KAKASHI'S HERE SOME-WHERE...


CRUNCH


....!

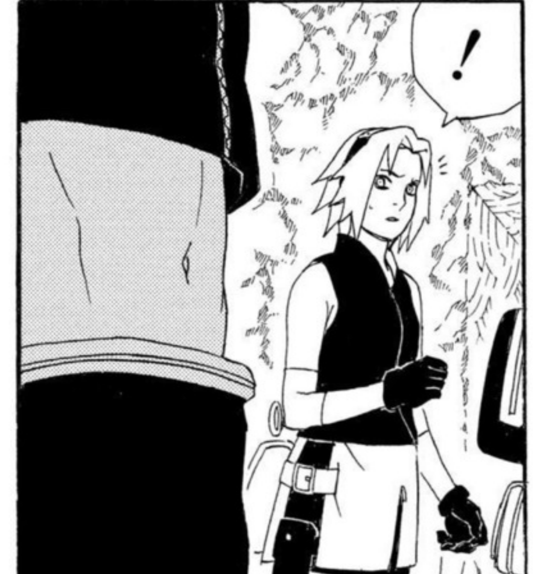

READ THIS WAY


SORRY, BUT KAKASHI COULDN'T MAKE IT.
I'M HERE IN HIS STEAD.
!
WE OF TEAM KAKASHI ARE HERE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO KONOHA.


...


TEAM KAKASHI, HUH?

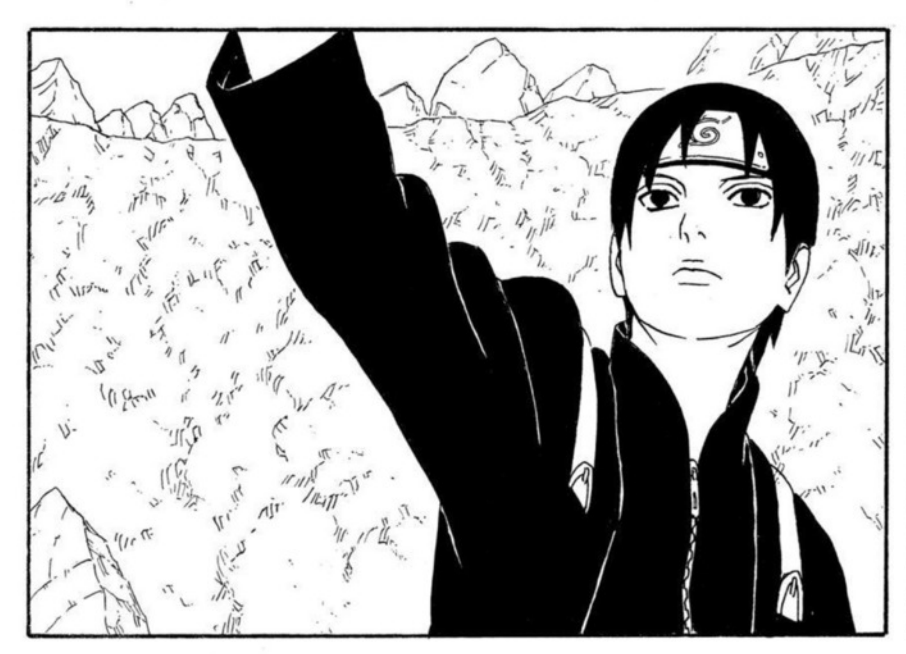

THAP


!

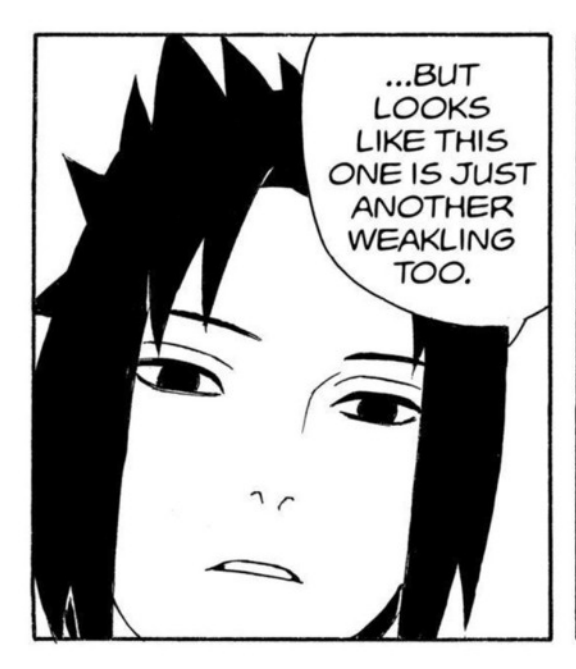

SAI!
YOU ARE *NOT* STILL THINKING OF YOUR MISSION?!


...!


!




IS HE MY STAND-IN...?
HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT WANTING TO PROTECT THE BOND BETWEEN ME AND NARUTO, BUT...


...BUT LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE IS JUST ANOTHER WEAKLING TOO.


READ THIS WAY

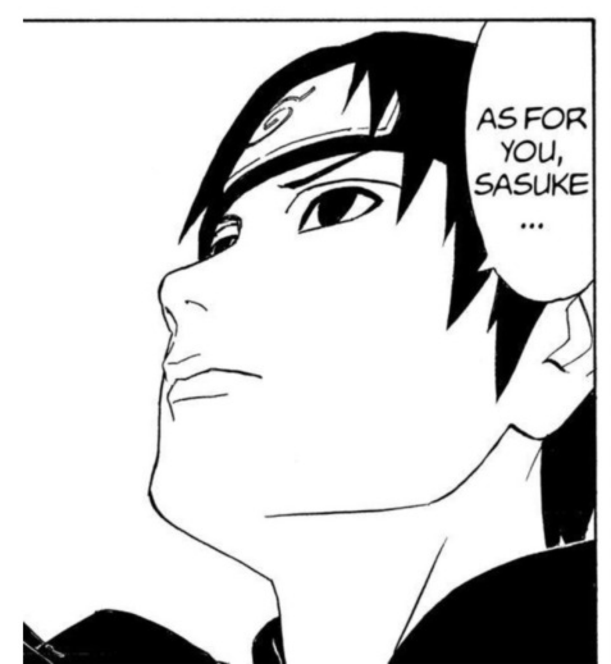

WHAT?


YES...
...MY TOP-SECRET MISSION WAS TO KILL SASUKE...


...BUT I'M DONE FOLLOWING ORDERS.
FROM NOW ON, I WANT TO THINK FOR MYSELF.


I FEEL LIKE YOU CAN HELP ME REMEMBER, NARUTO...
...BRING BACK THOSE OLD FEELINGS I THOUGHT WERE LOST...

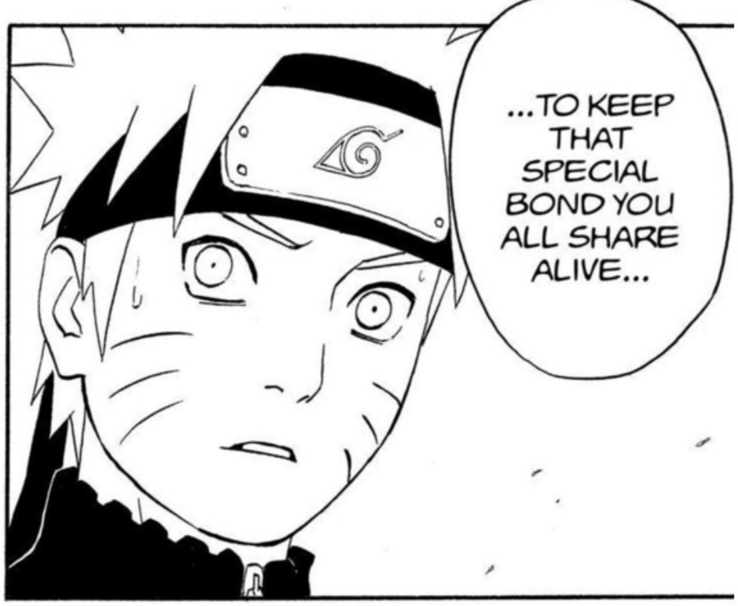

THE THINGS THAT WERE ONCE REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME...


AS FOR YOU, SASUKE ...

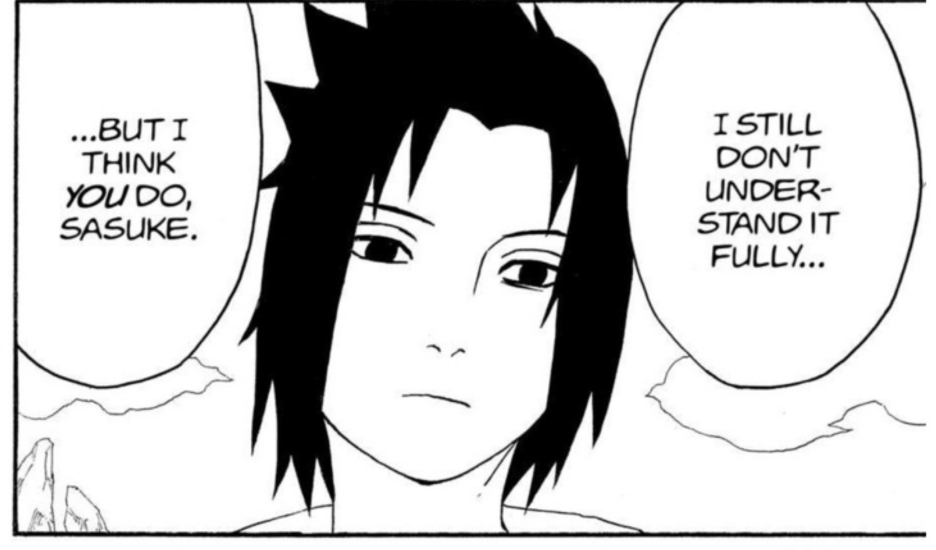
...I REALLY DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT YOU...

...EXCEPT THAT NARUTO AND SAKURA ARE WILLING TO RISK EVERYTHING FOR YOU...









YEAH... I DID.

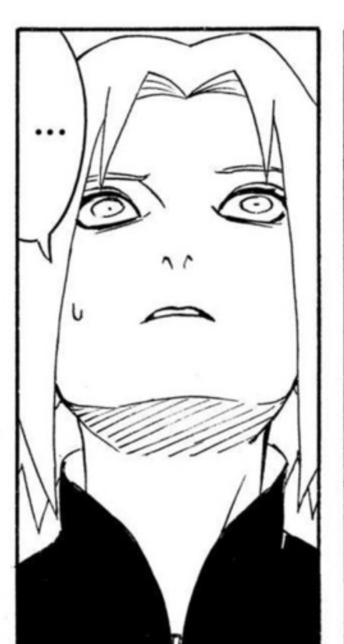
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CUT THEM OFF.







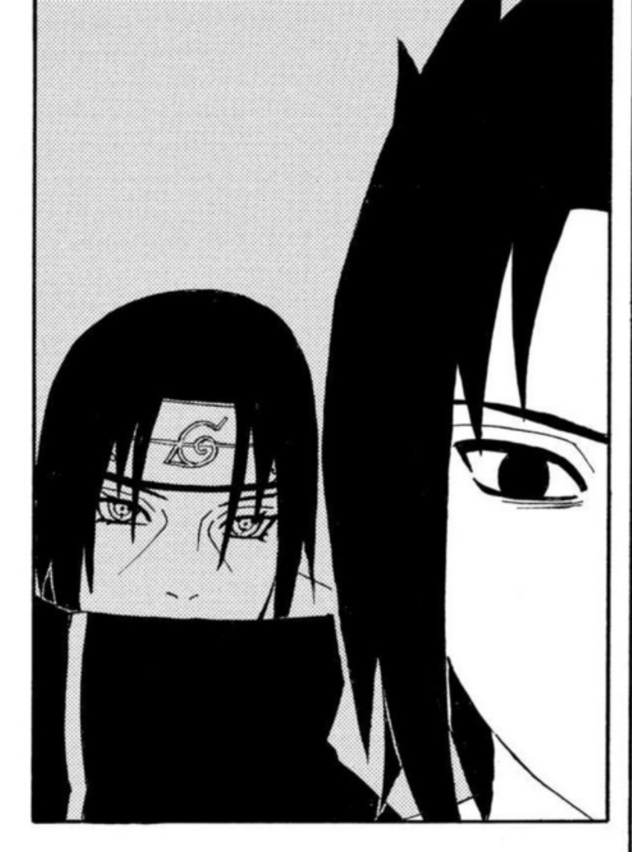




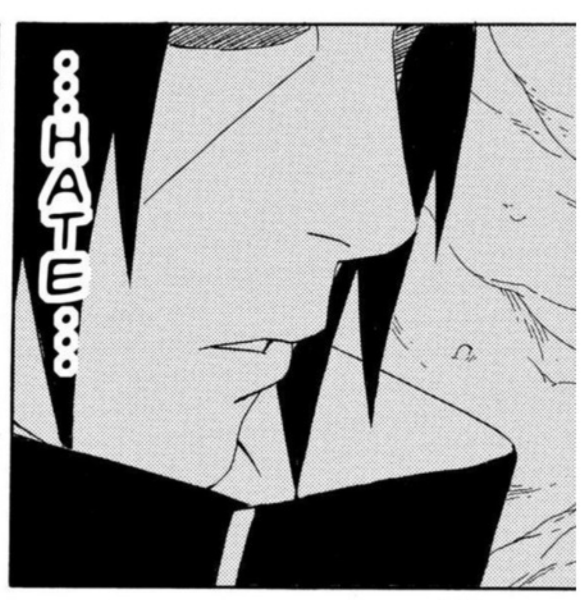


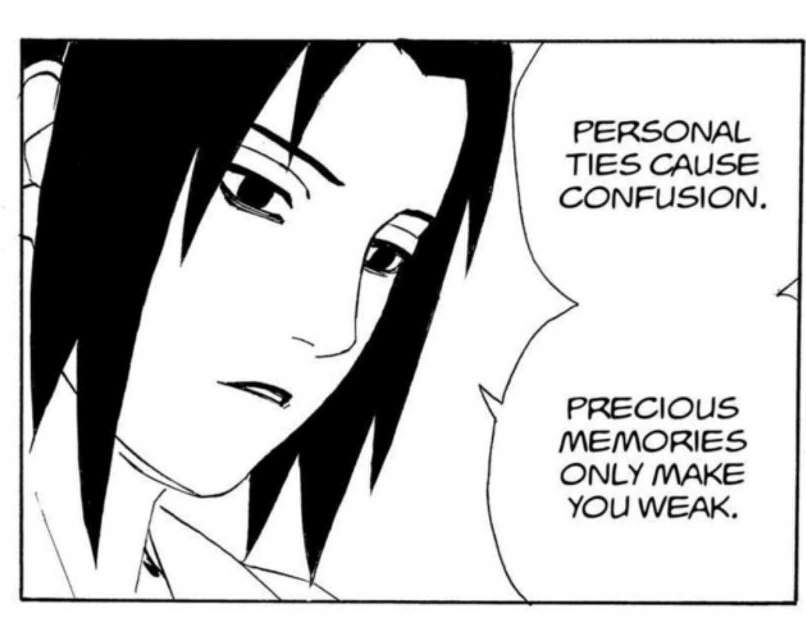



THE BOND OF HATRED BETWEEN MY OLDER BROTHER AND ME...




YOU'RE STILL TOO WEAK...
YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ...


...HATE...

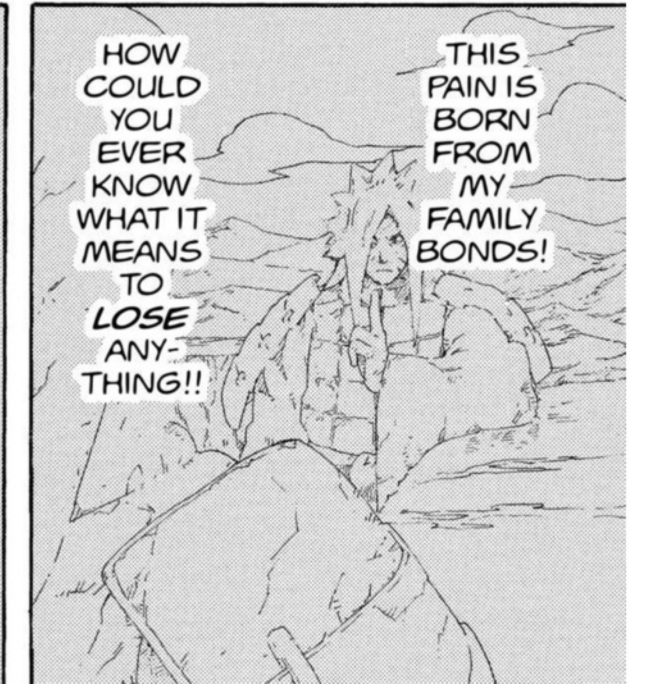

PERSONAL TIES CAUSE CONFUSION.
PRECIOUS MEMORIES ONLY MAKE YOU WEAK.

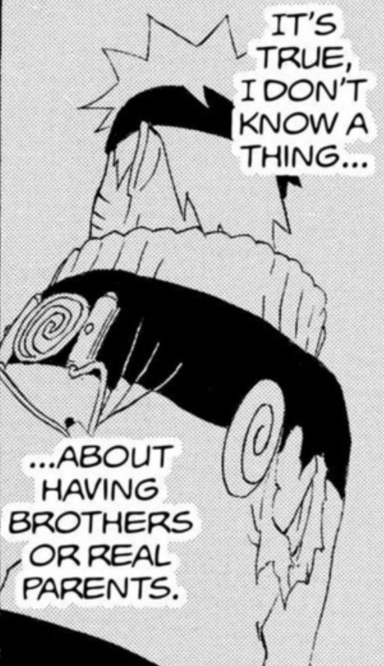

READ THIS WAY


...


WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY KNOW ABOUT ME?
YOU'VE GOT NO PARENTS, NO BROTHERS...

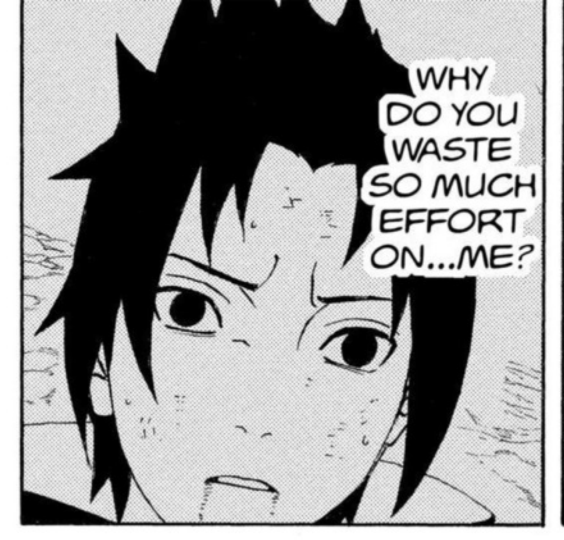

YOU WERE ALONE TO BEGIN WITH...
WHAT CAN YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?! HUNH ?!!


THIS PAIN IS BORN FROM MY FAMILY BONDS!
HOW COULD YOU EVER KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LOSE ANY-THING!!


IT'S TRUE, I DON'T KNOW A THING...
...ABOUT HAVING BROTHERS OR REAL PARENTS.

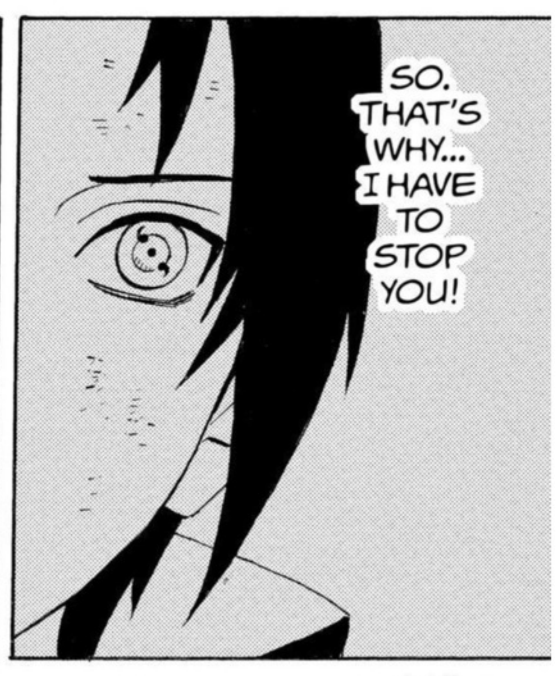

WHY, SASUKE ...?


WHY?

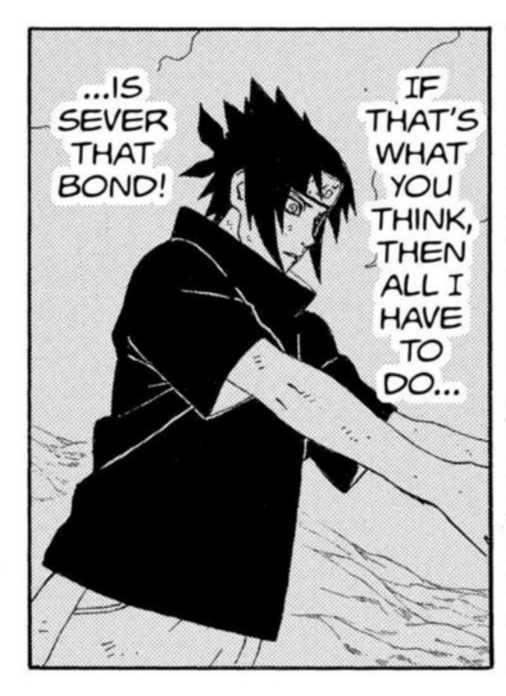

WHY DO YOU WASTE SO MUCH EFFORT ON...ME?


...?!


BECAUSE... FOR ME...
...YOU WERE PART OF MY FAMILY.


SO. THAT'S WHY... I HAVE TO STOP YOU!


WHY, ON THAT DAY...

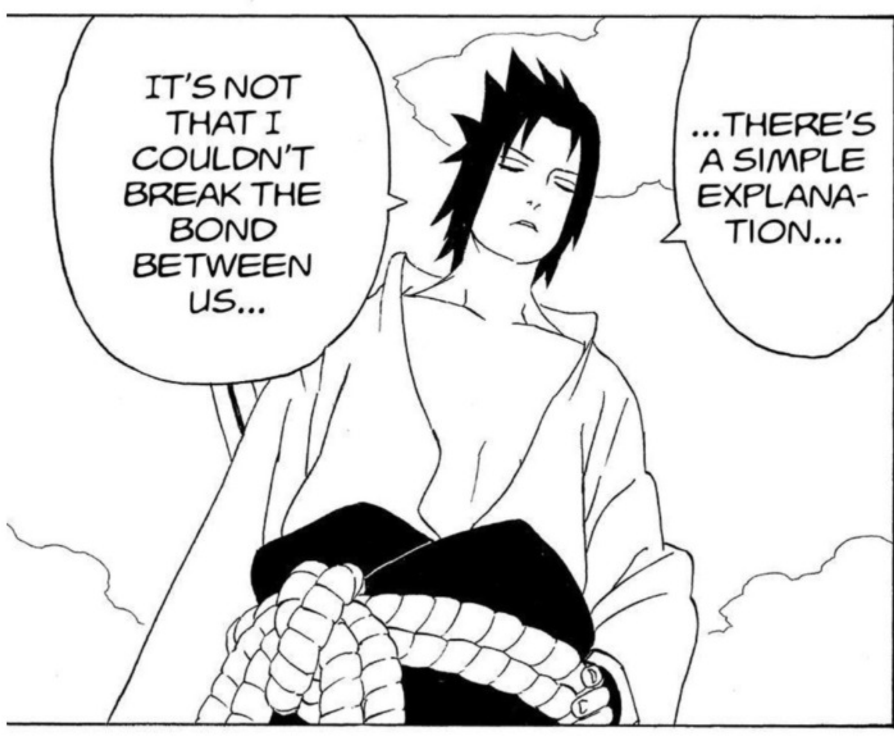

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO...
...IS SEVER THAT BOND!

...WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST KILL ME?! THAT WOULD'VE BROKEN IT!

OR MAYBE YOU CAN'T! MAYBE YOU'RE AFRAID! HUH?!?











YOU HAVE TO KILL...

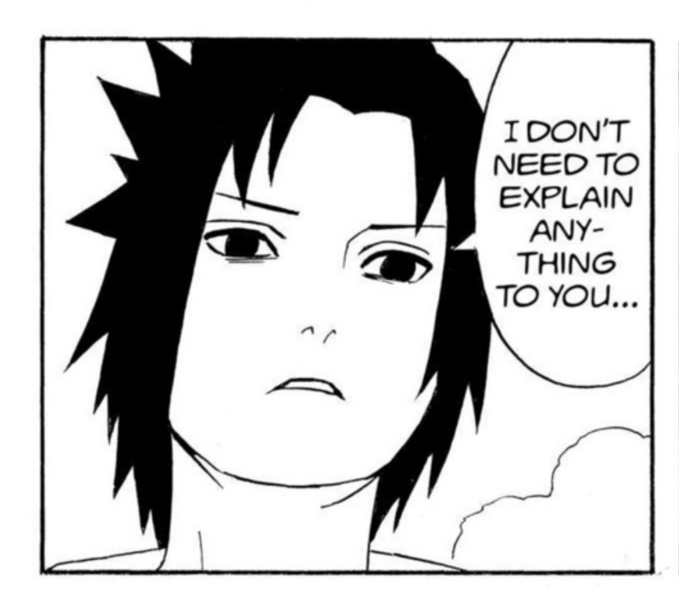
...YOUR CLOSEST FRIEND.

I WAS SIMPLY DOING AS MY BROTHER DID BEFORE ME.

IT WAS JUST A STRATEGY TO GAIN POWER.

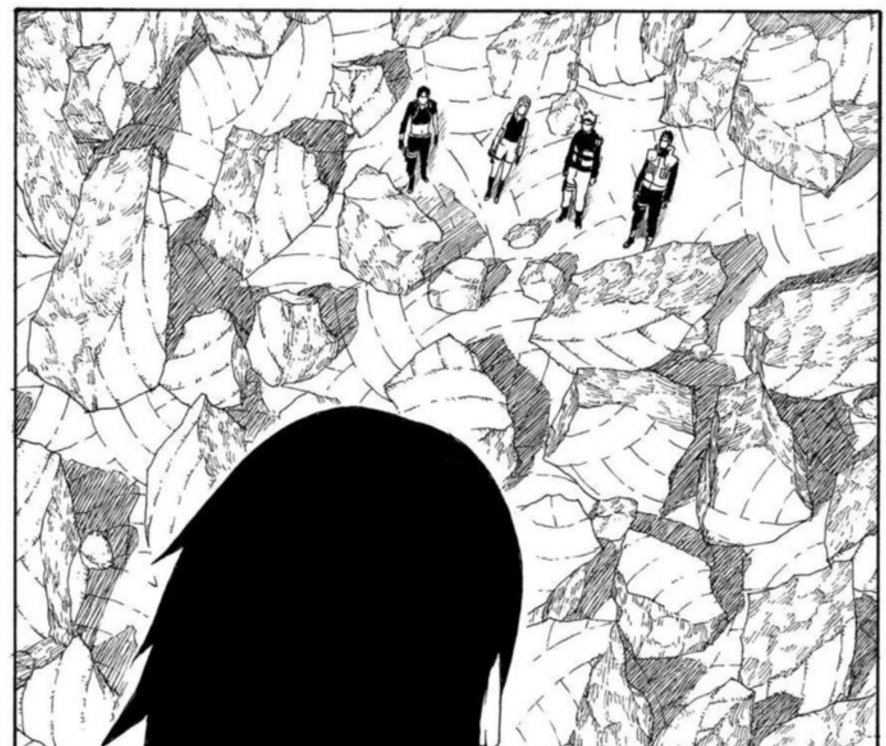







READ
THIS
WAY


...THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO KNOW...




...IS THAT YOUR LIFE WAS ONLY SPARED ON A WHIM!


...


...


....!!


?!


HE'S FAST ...!

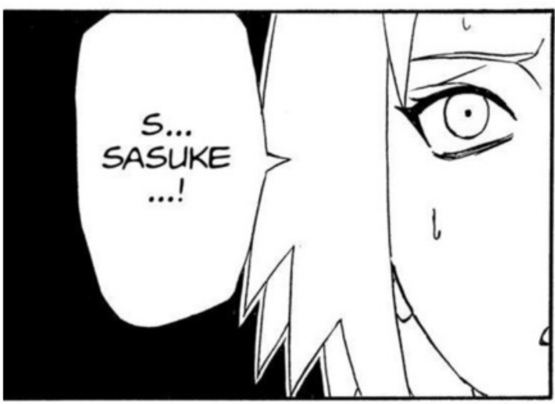

READ THIS WAY

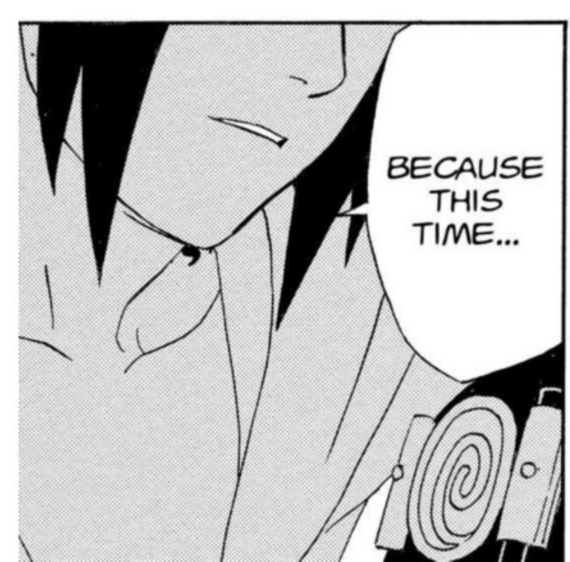

...!
WHEN DID HE...?


THAT REMINDS ME...DIDN'T YOU USE TO SAY YOUR DREAM WAS TO BECOME HOKAGE?



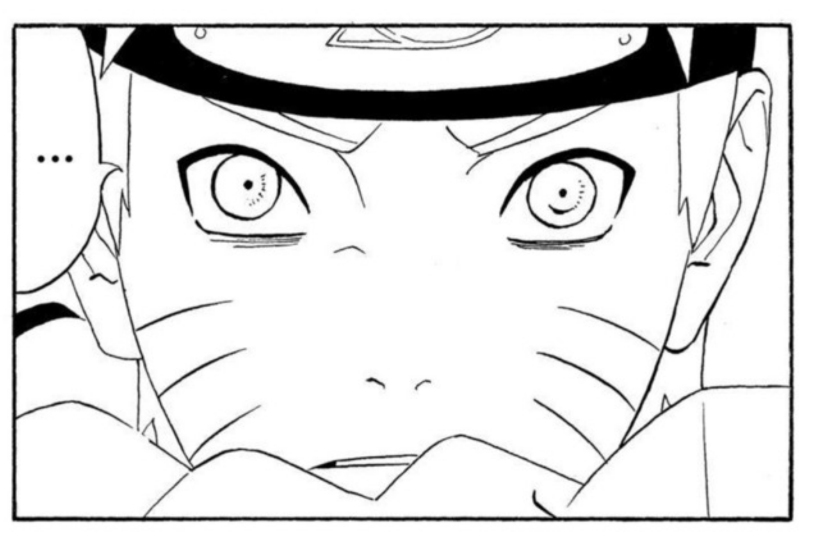

INSTEAD OF WASTING ALL THAT TIME CHASING ME, YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN TRAINING.
DON'T YOU THINK?


S... SASUKE ...!


BECAUSE THIS TIME...


...YOU COULD LOSE YOUR LIFE ON A WHIM.
SHING





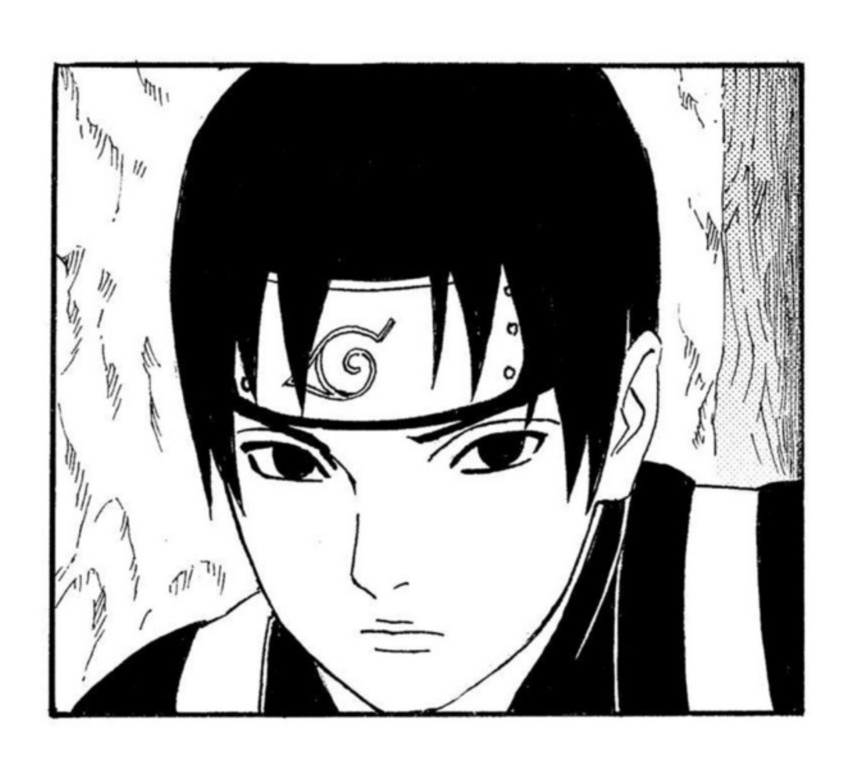


IF SOME-ONE CAN'T EVEN SAVE A FRIEND, THEN I DON'T THINK THEY DESERVE TO BE HOKAGE...

...DO YOU...

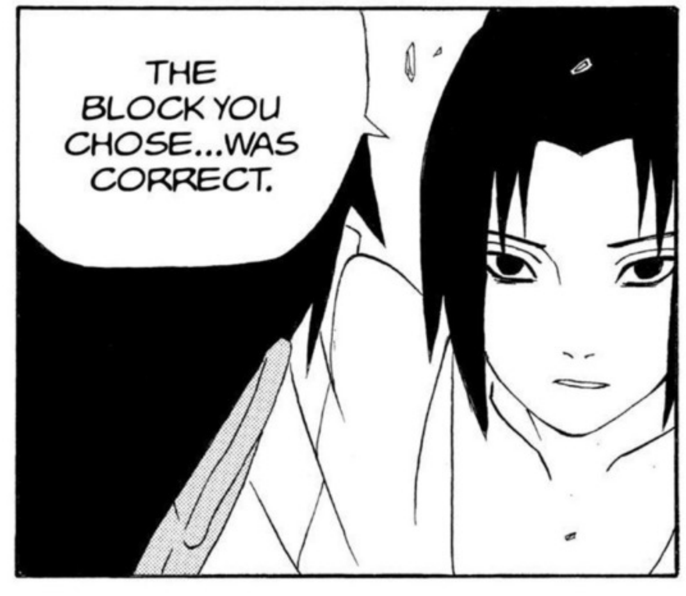
...SASUKE?

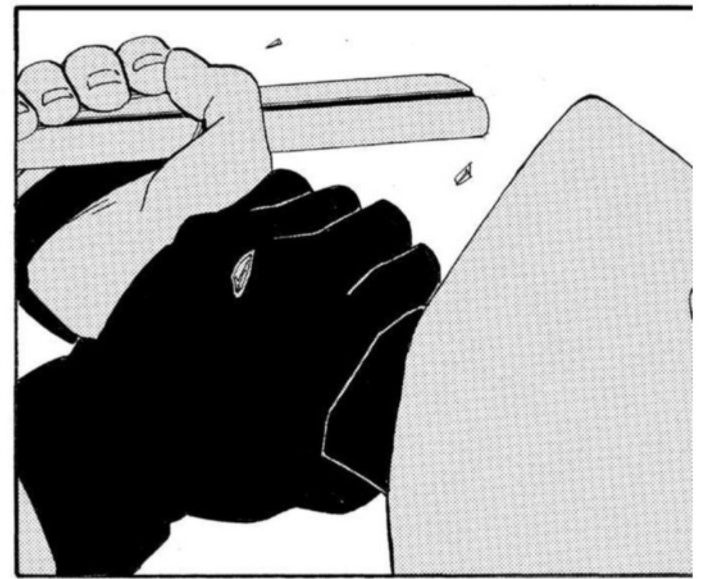





Number 308: Sasuke's Strength!!
!!
!!
SASUKE!!
FWH
WOOSH

Number 308
Sasuke's Strength!!







?!
SHUP
GOOD!
SWOOM

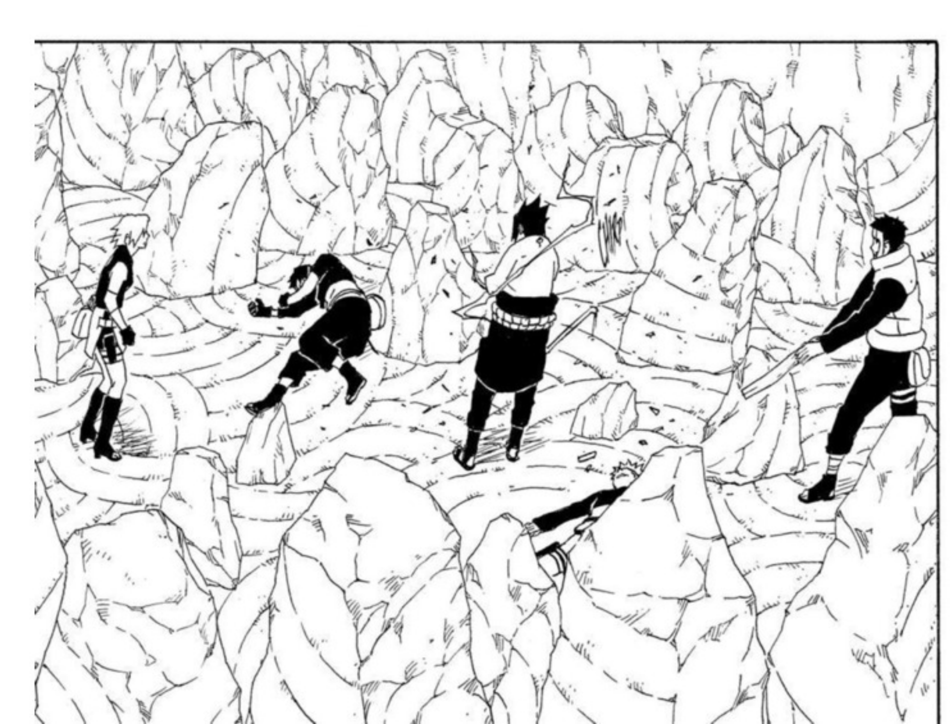

ARGH!
!!
CHIDORI STREAM!!
UNH!
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
!!



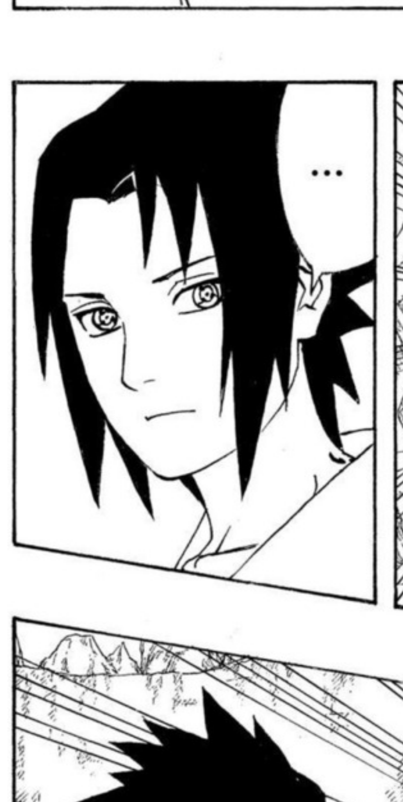




CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP


GRRR

BUT NEXT TIME, I'M COMING WITH YOU!

...

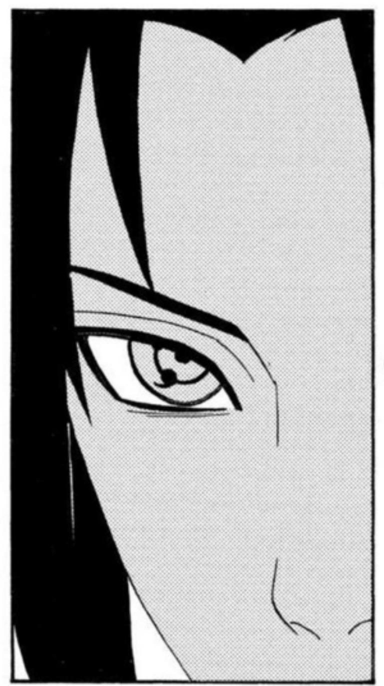
WHSSH

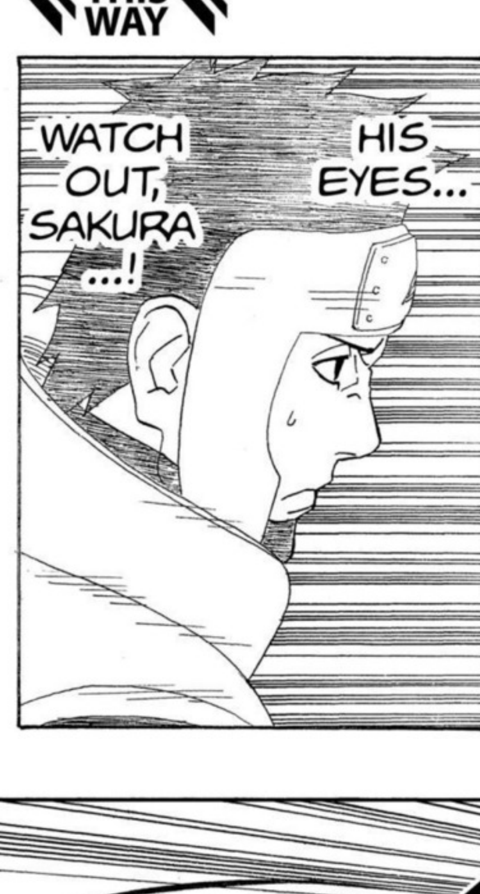
I WILL STOP SASUKE ...
...MYSELF!



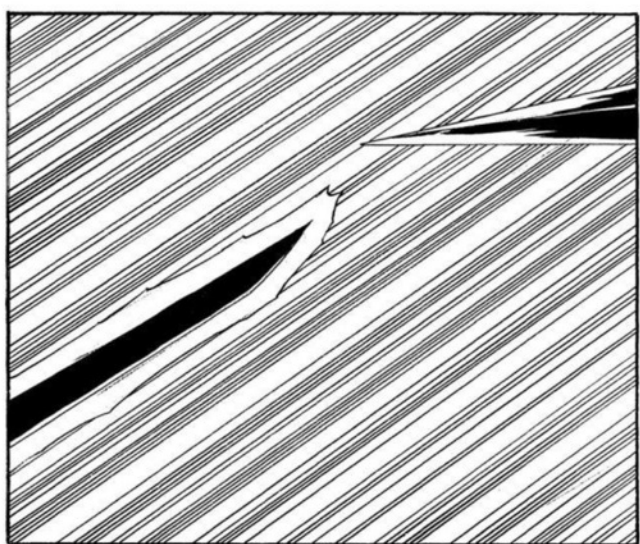
READ
THIS
WAY

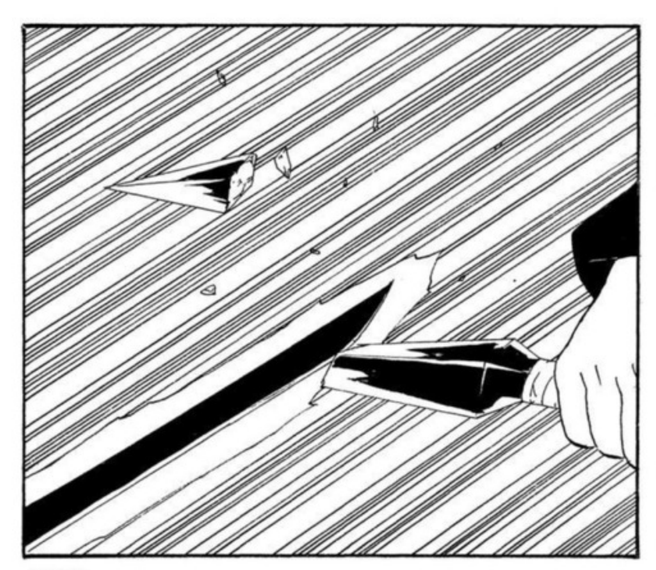


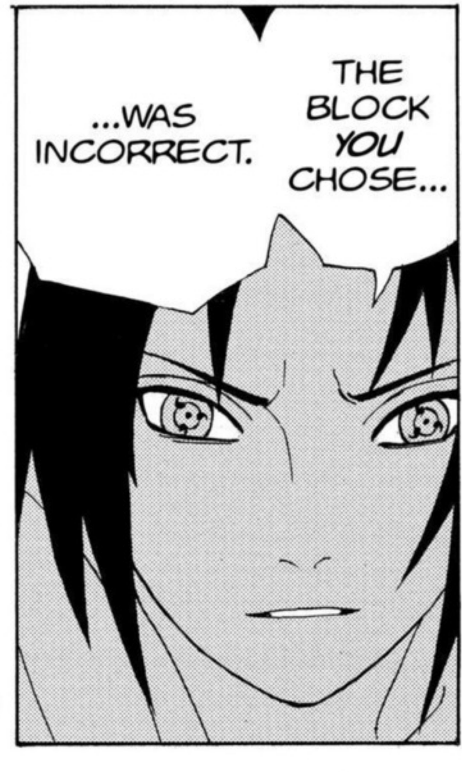



HIS EYES...
WATCH OUT, SAKURA ...!


!






THE BLOCK YOU CHOSE...
...WAS INCORRECT.


SLAM



CAPTAIN YAMATO!!

MY KUSANAGI BLADE IS NOTHING LIKE OROCHI-MARU'S.

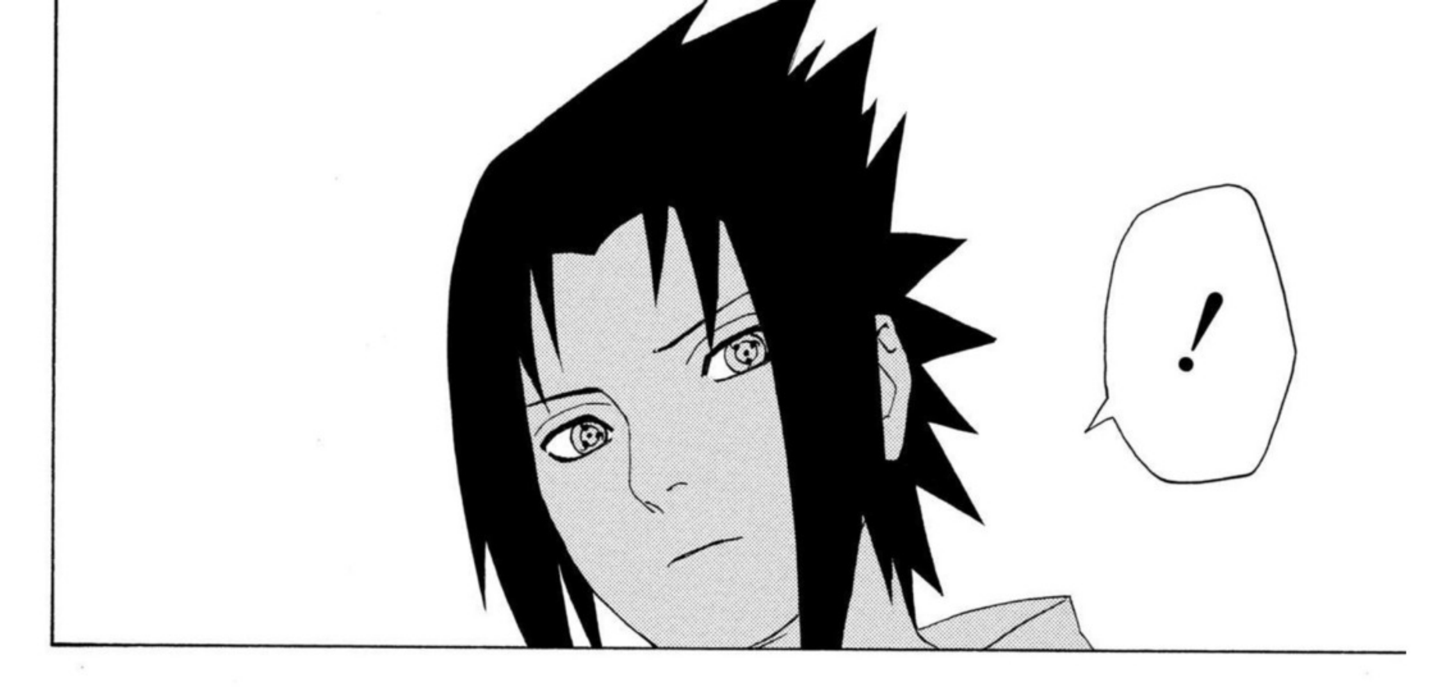
MINE IS *IMPOSSIBLE* TO BLOCK.

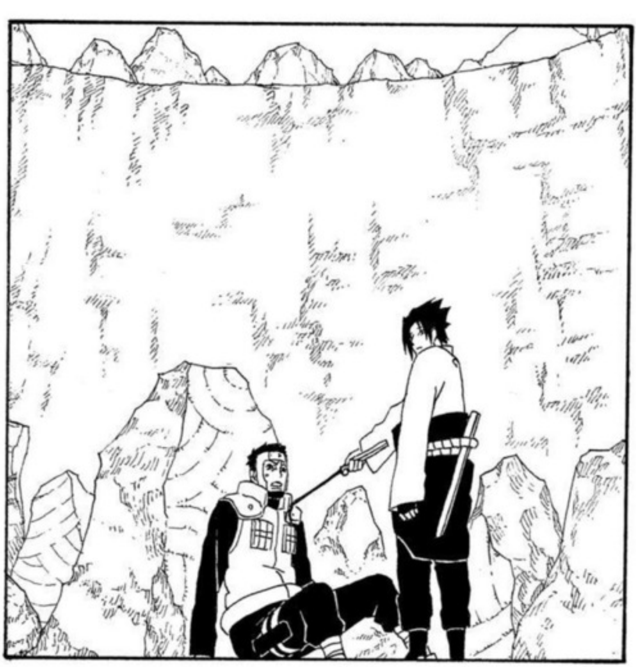
BODY'S TIN-GLING... CAN'T MOVE ...

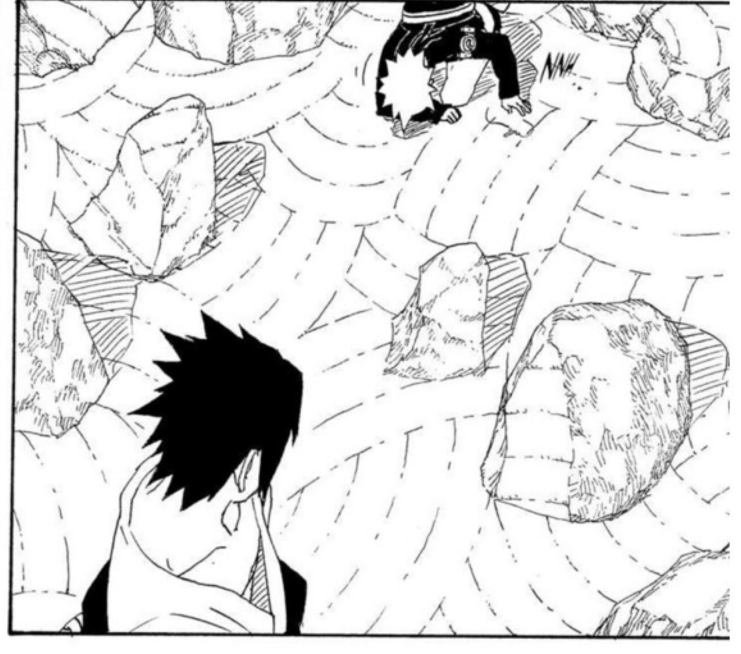
COULD HE BE... RUNNING CHIDORI THROUGH THE BLADE...?





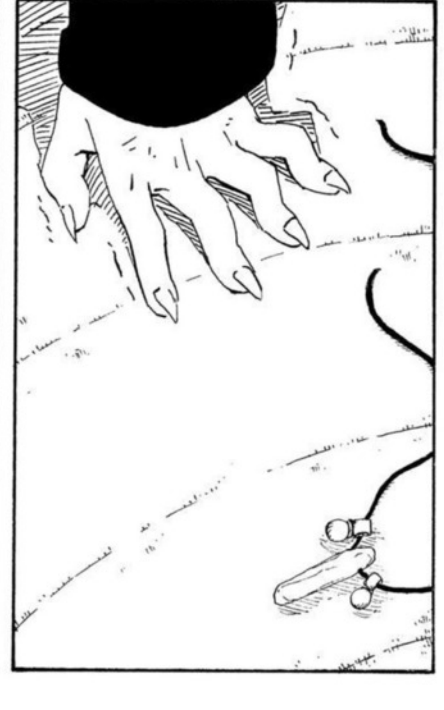






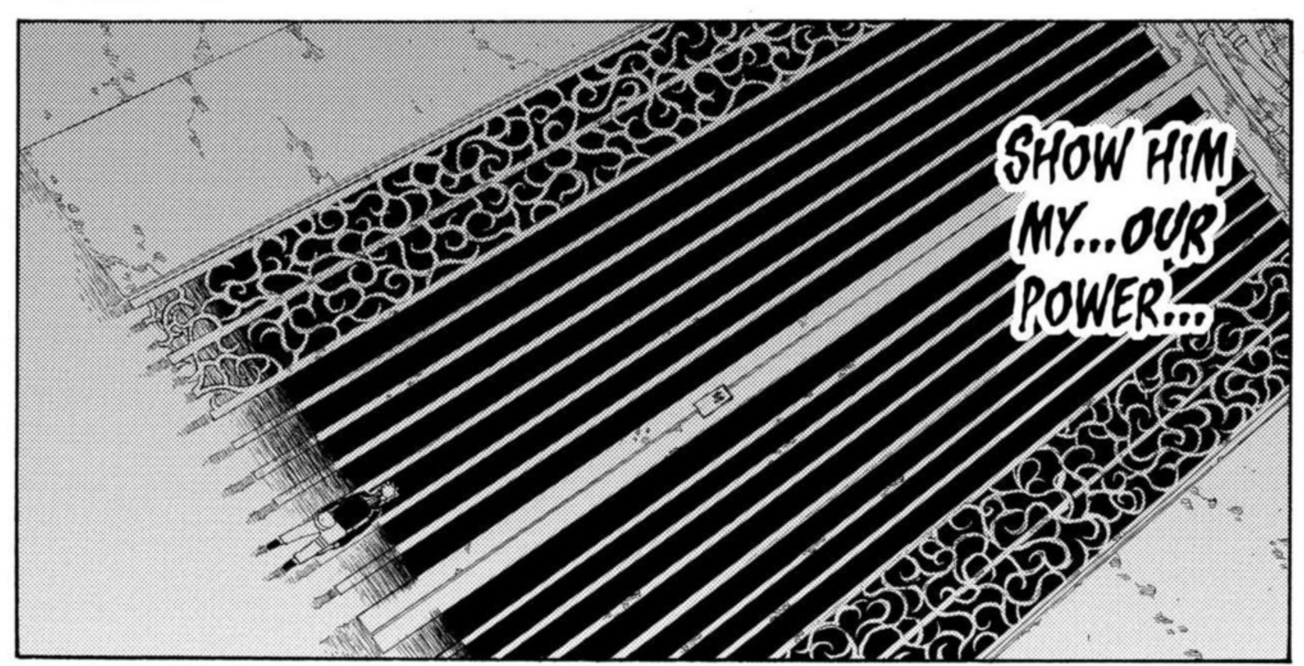
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE... NARUTO...

HEH HEH...

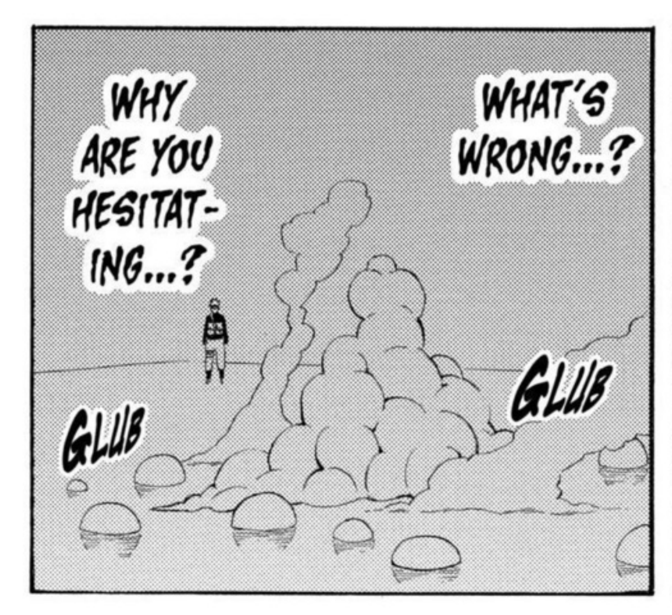


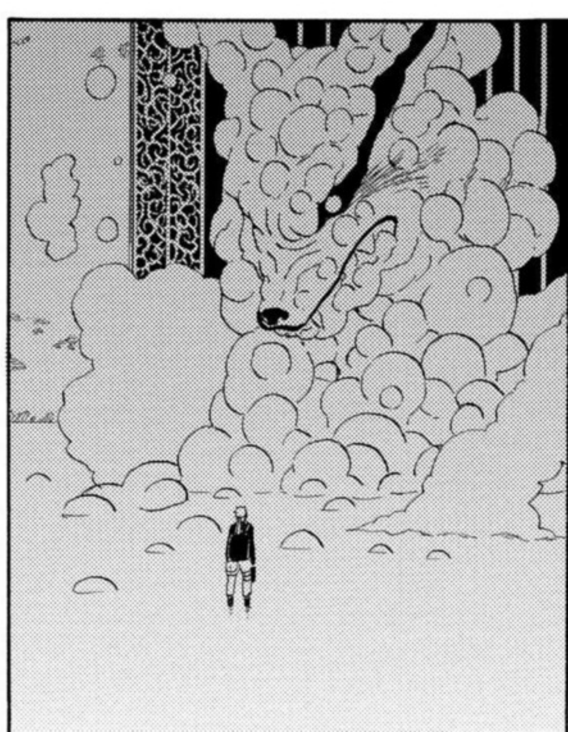


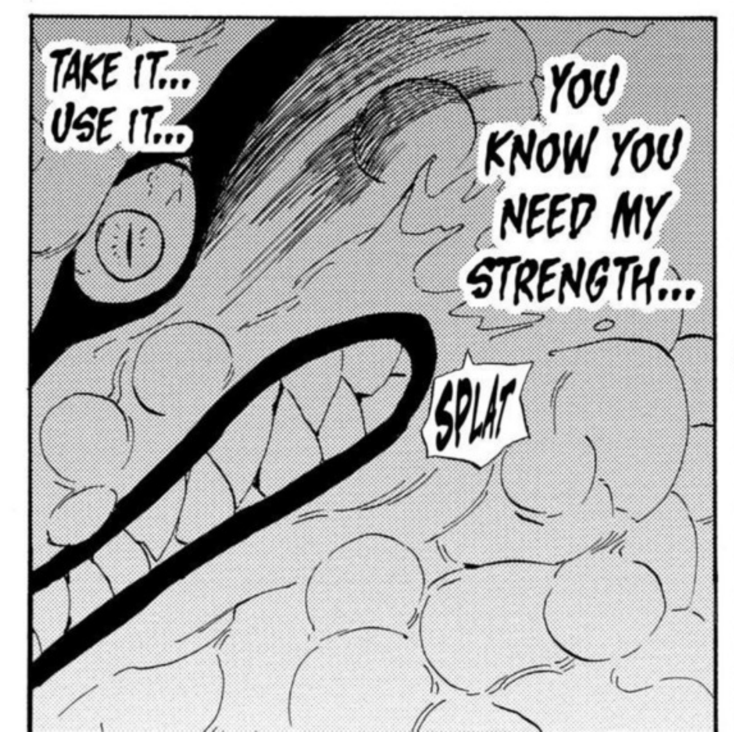

READ THIS WAY

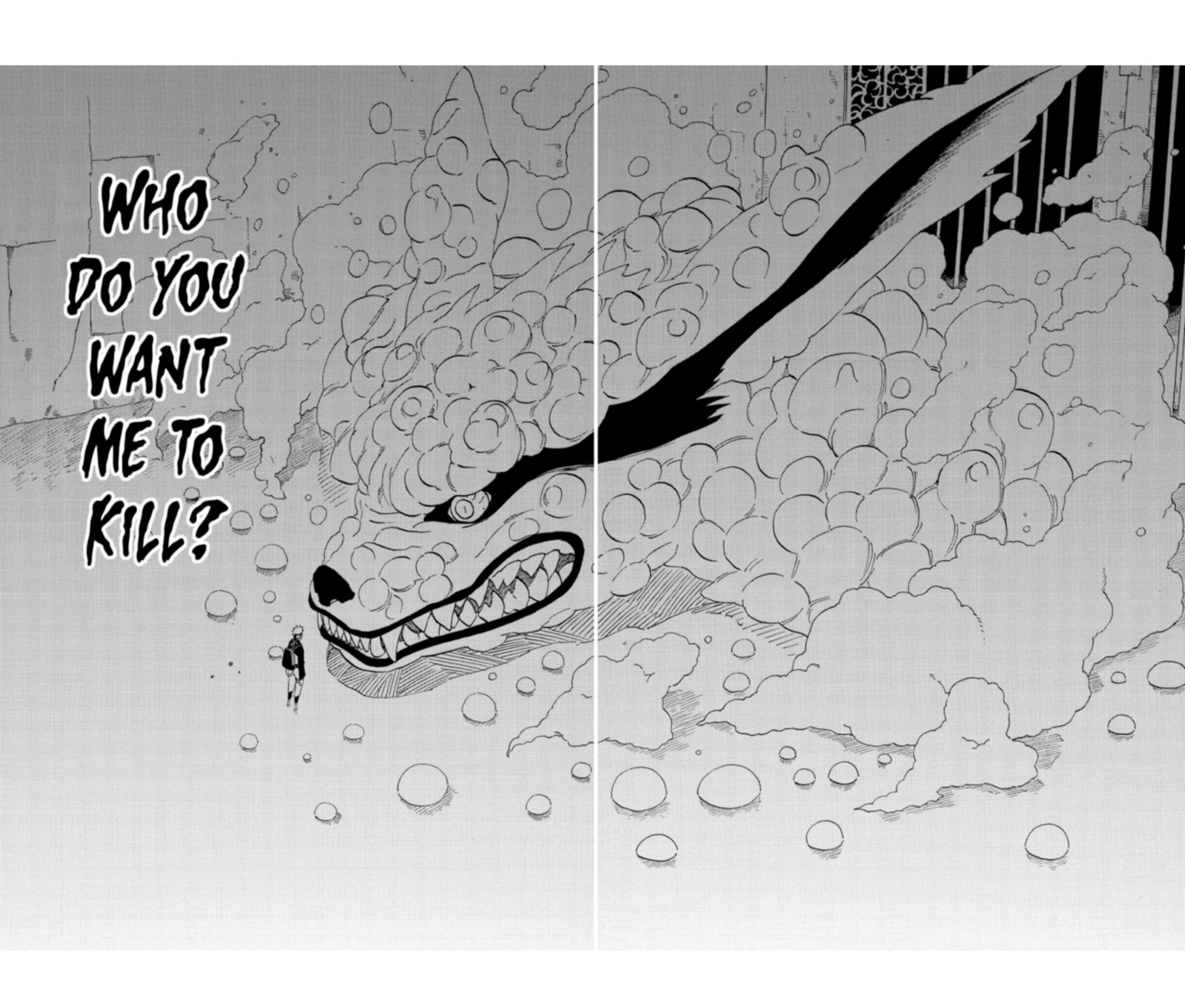

SHOW HIM MY...OUR POWER...


...

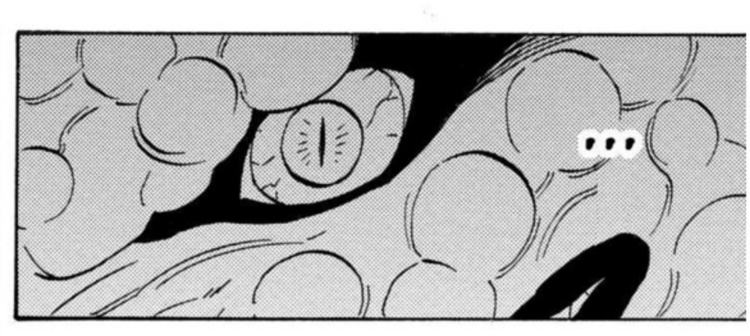

WHAT'S WRONG...?
WHY ARE YOU HESITATING...?
GLUB
GLUB



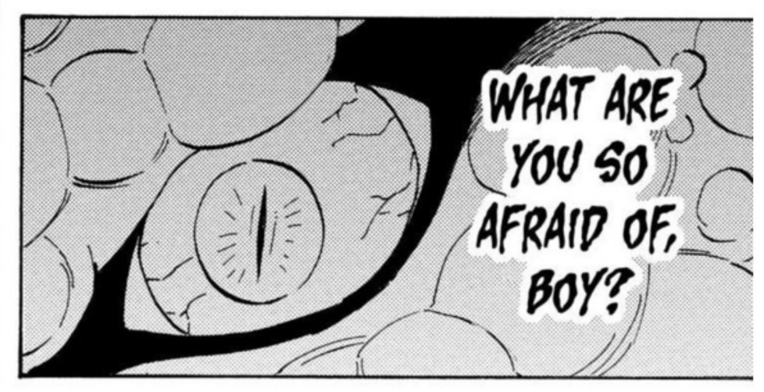

YOU KNOW YOU NEED MY STRENGTH...
TAKE IT... USE IT...
SPLAT


WHO DO YOU WANT ME TO KILL?


DON'T... EVER COME OUT AGAIN!


...

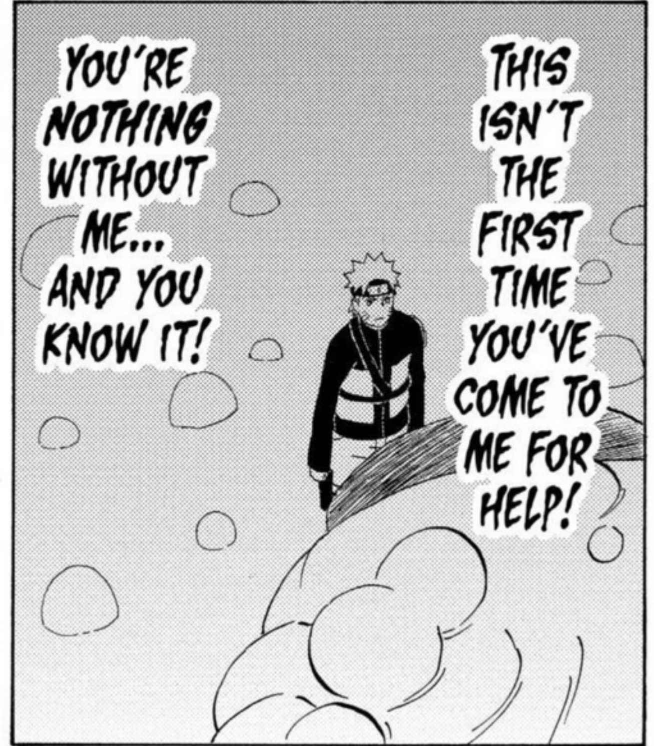

SHUT UP! I'M NOT AFRAID!
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING FROM YOU!


WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF, BOY?


HA HA HA HA HA!

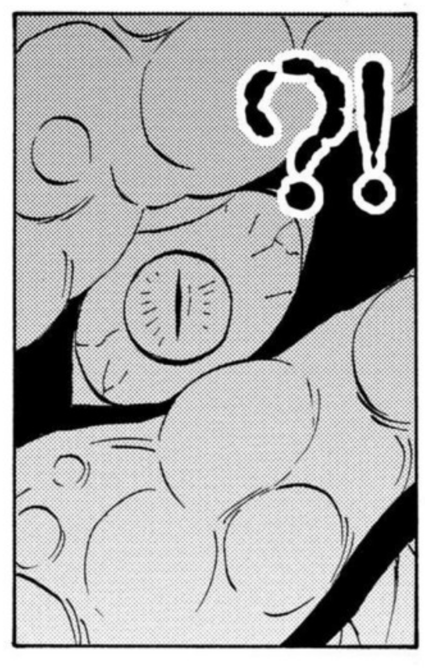



READ THIS WAY

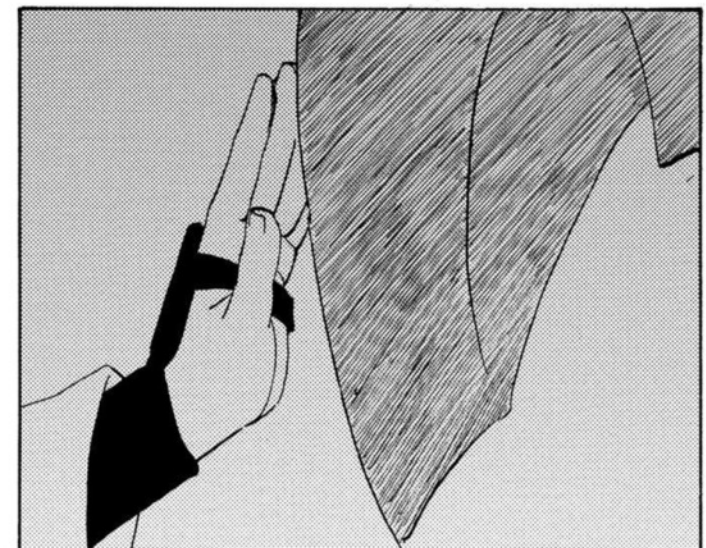

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE COME TO ME FOR HELP!
YOU'RE NOTHING WITHOUT ME... AND YOU KNOW IT!

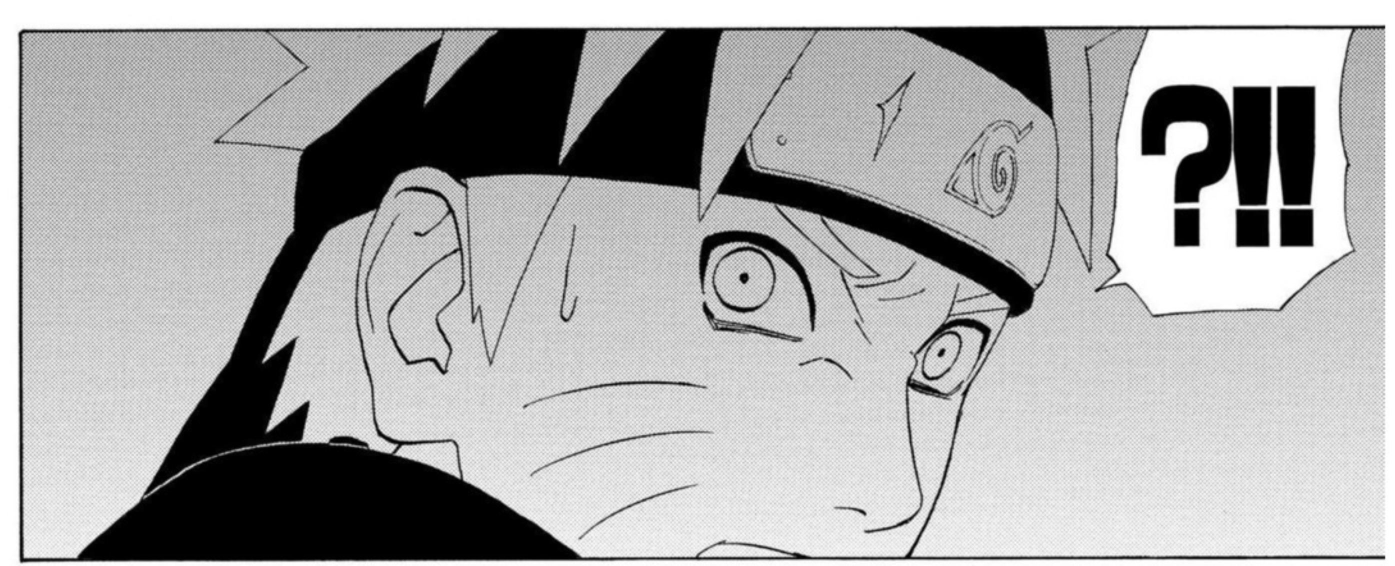

NOW, RELEASE THE SEAL ONCE AND FOR ALL!
DO IT... AND MY POWER... SHALL BE YOURS!
封


...
GET LOST...!

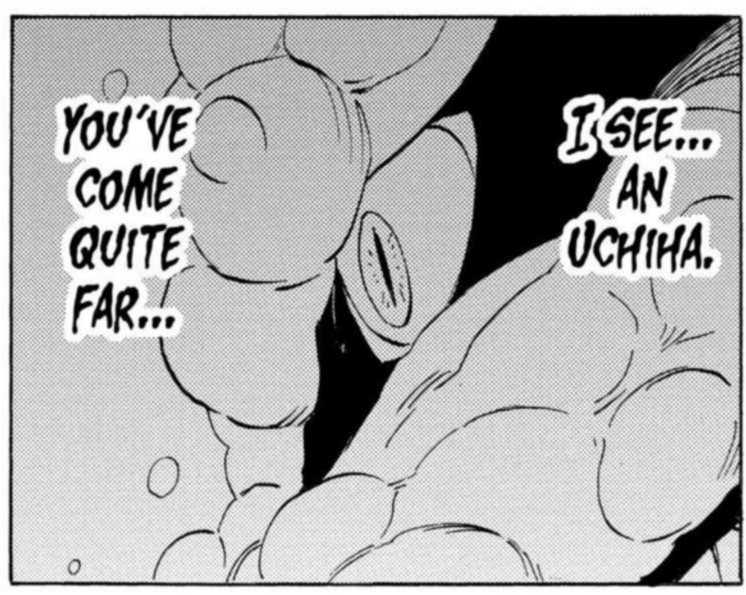

?!


...
WHO ARE YOU ...?!

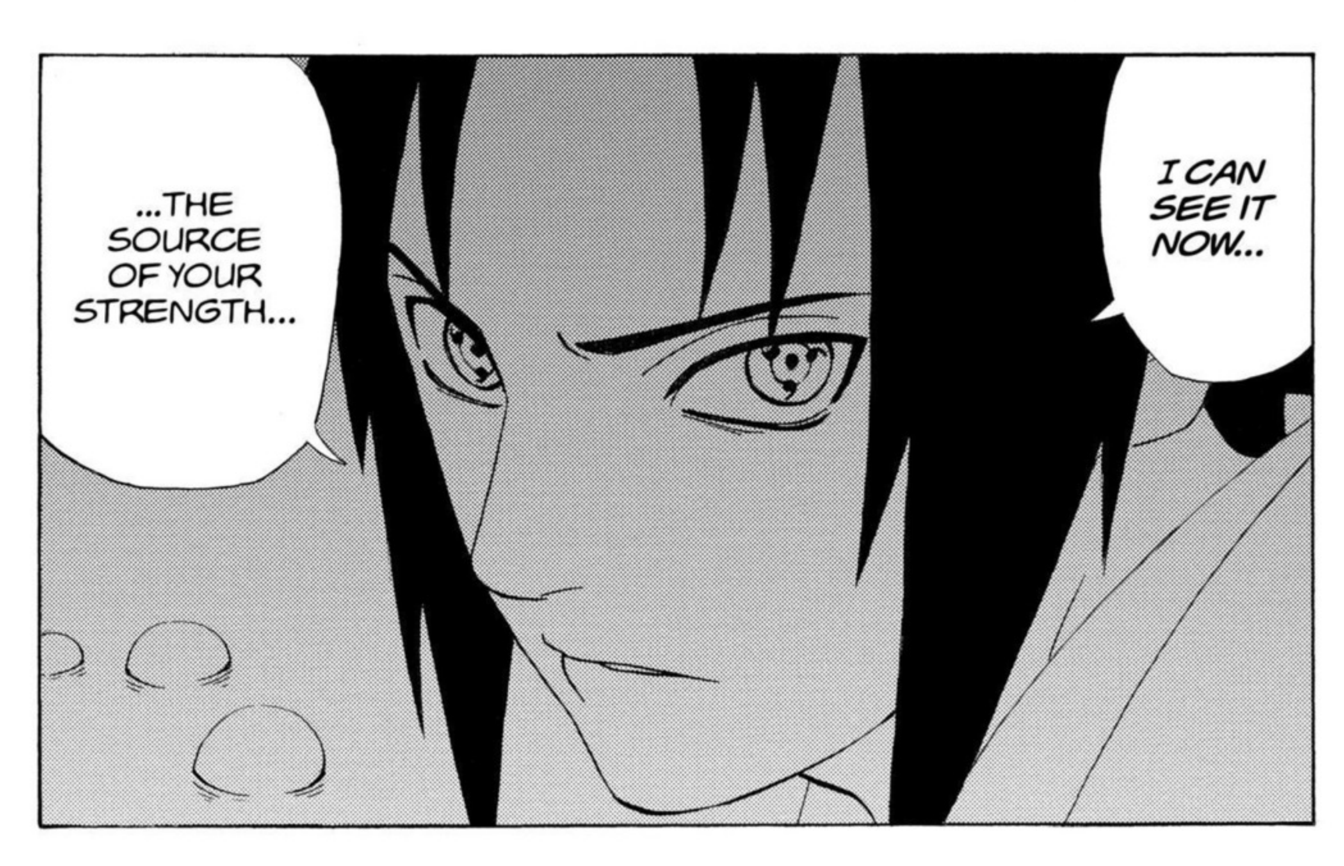





READ THIS WAY


I SEE... AN UCHIHA.
YOU'VE COME QUITE FAR...

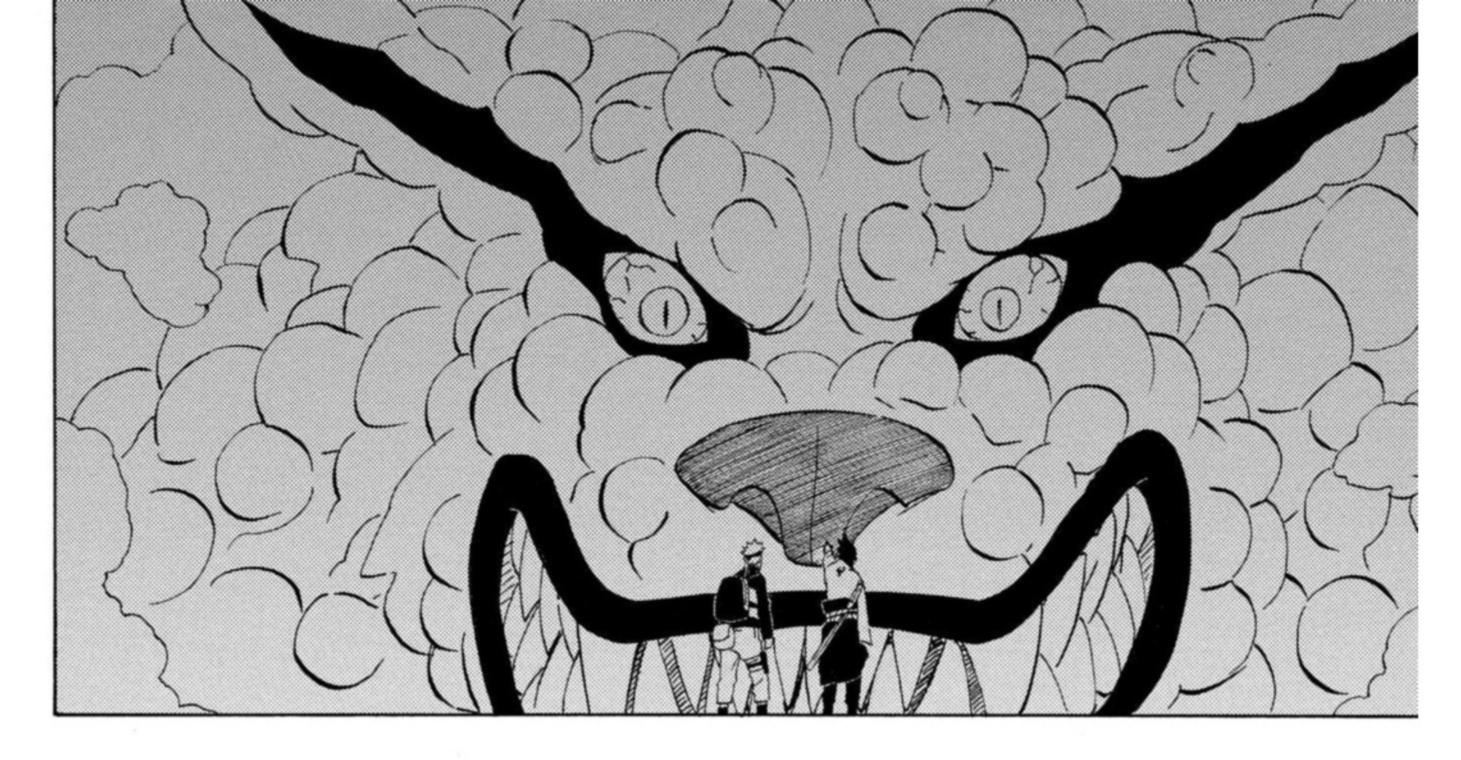

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?


I CAN SEE IT NOW...
...THE SOURCE OF YOUR STRENGTH...


I NEVER IMAGINED YOU HAD SUCH A THING INSIDE OF YOU.

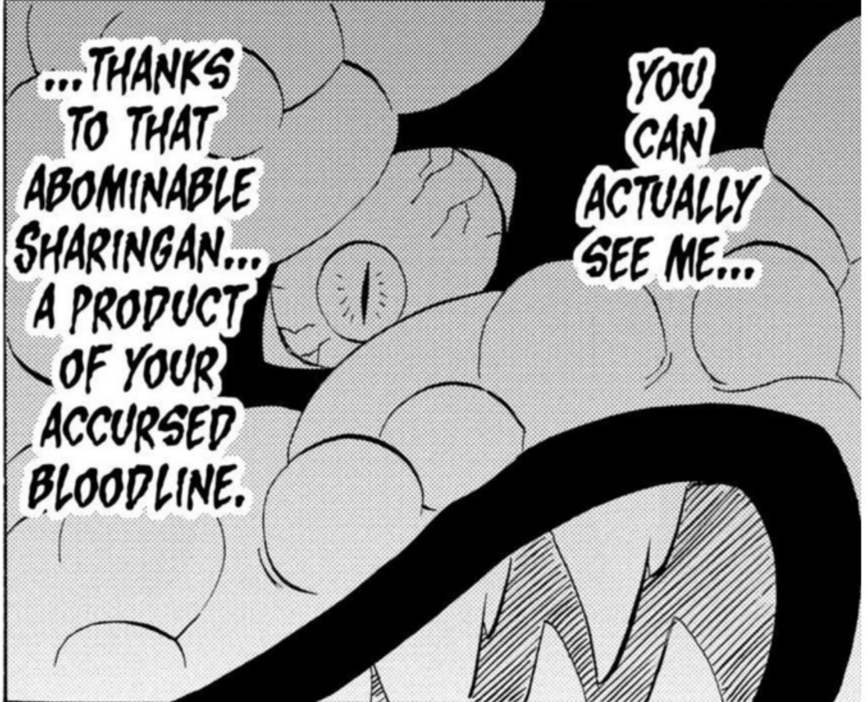

NARUTO


Number 309:
A Conversation with Nine Tails!!



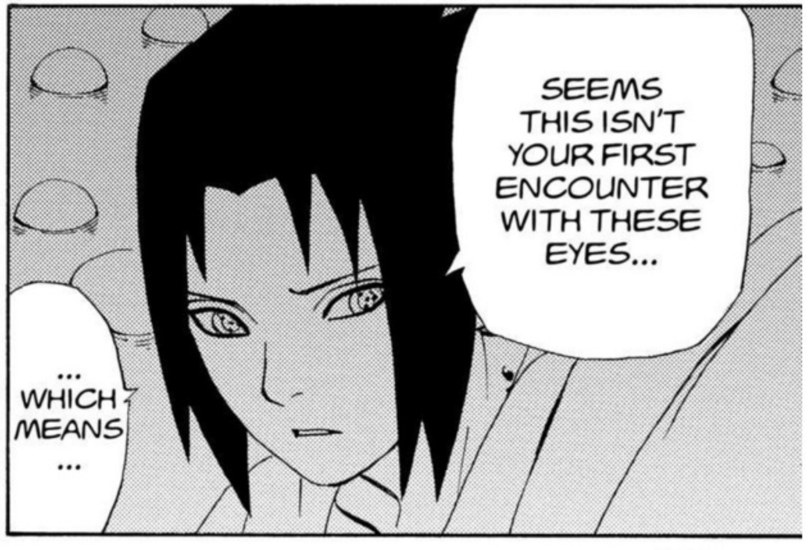


?!

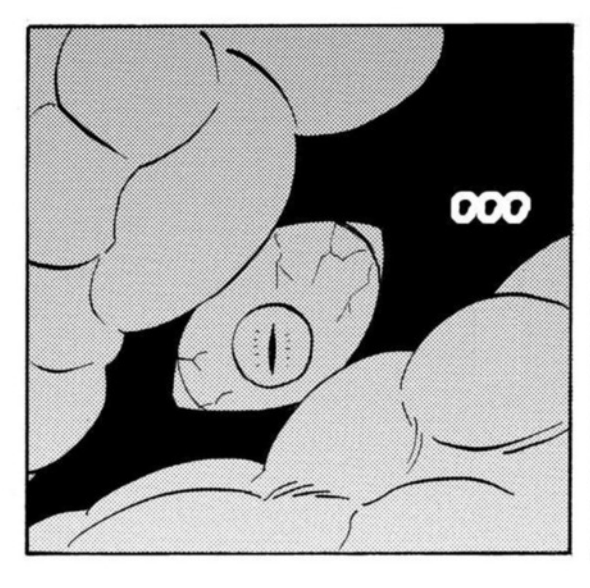


YOU CAN ACTUALLY SEE ME...
...THANKS TO THAT ABOMINABLE SHARINGAN... A PRODUCT OF YOUR ACCURSED BLOODLINE.





SEEMS THIS ISN'T YOUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THESE EYES...
... WHICH MEANS ...

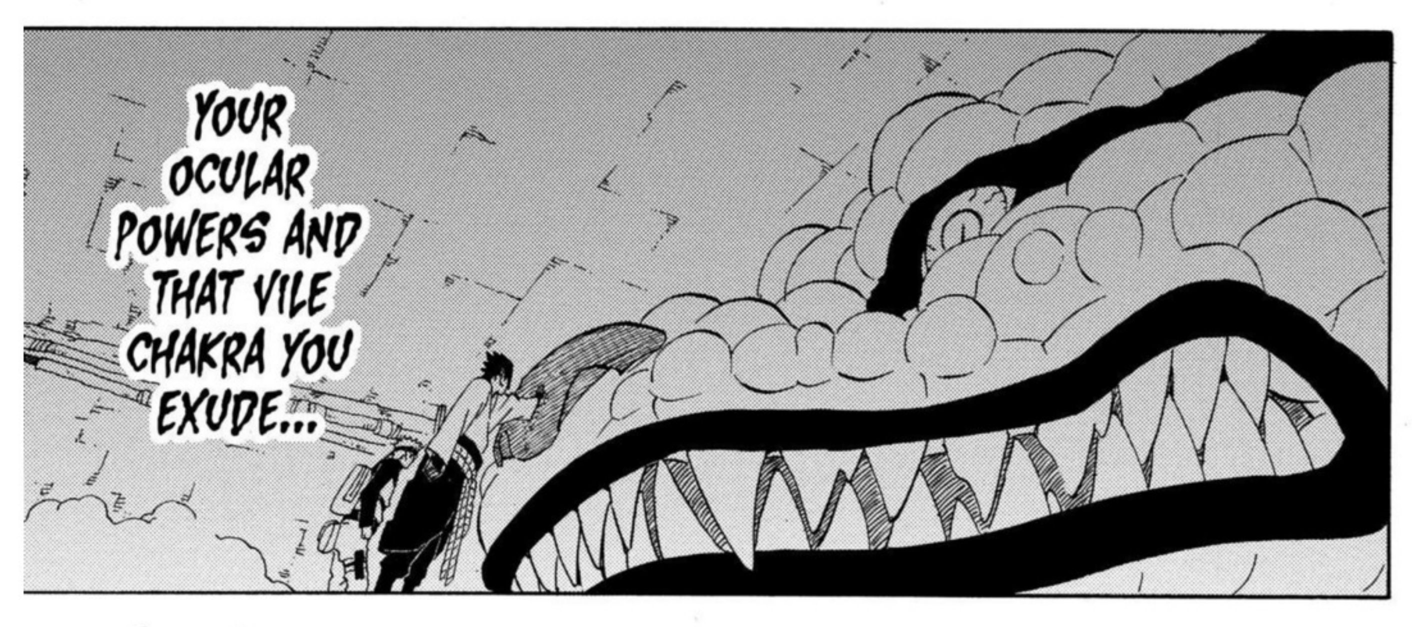


...


READ
THIS
WAY


...YOU MUST BE THE LEGENDARY NINE-TAILED FOX DEMON...

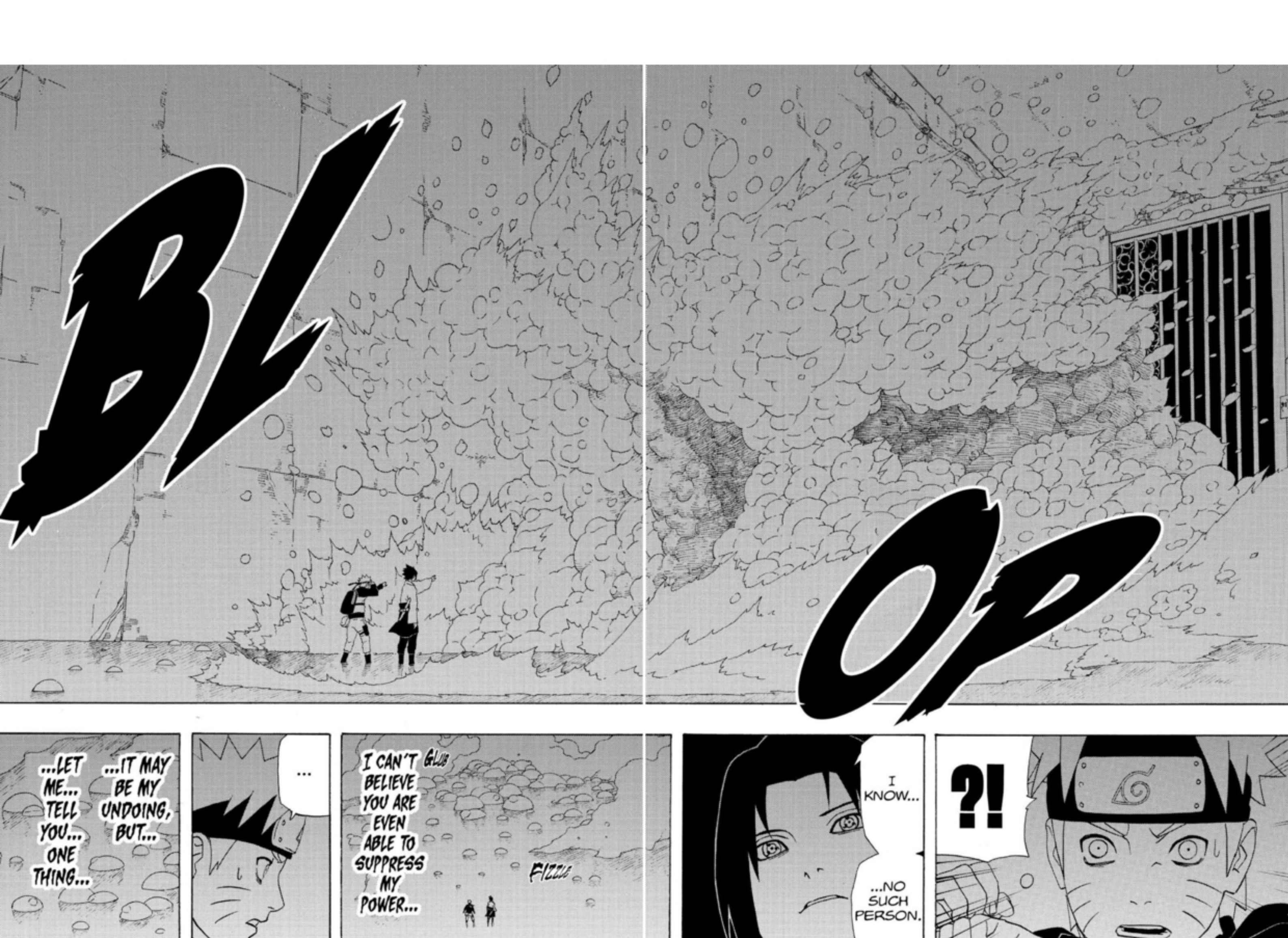

...?!

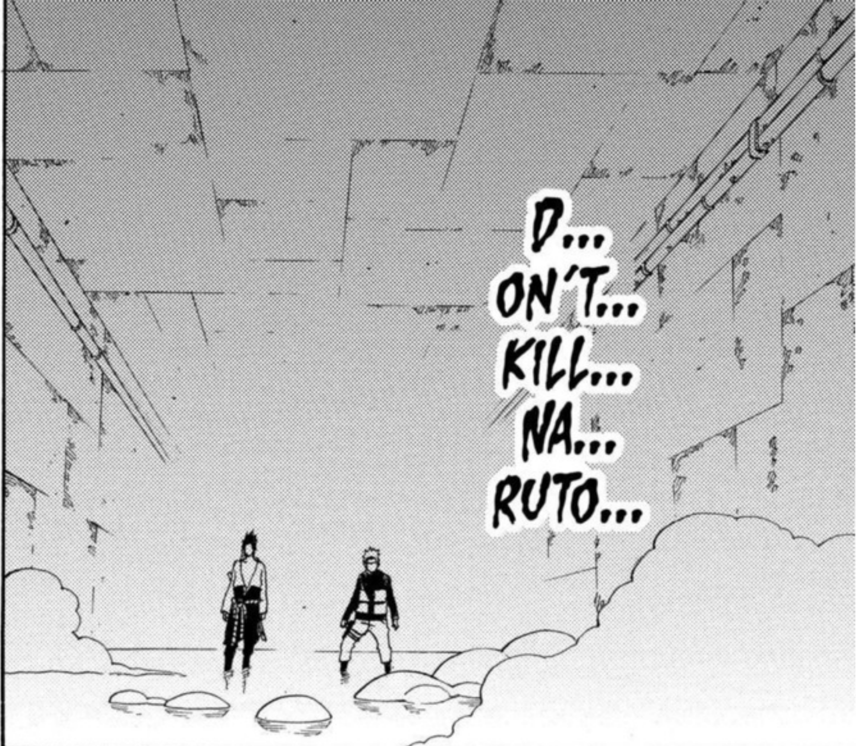

YOUR OCULAR POWERS AND THAT VILE CHAKRA YOU EXUDE...

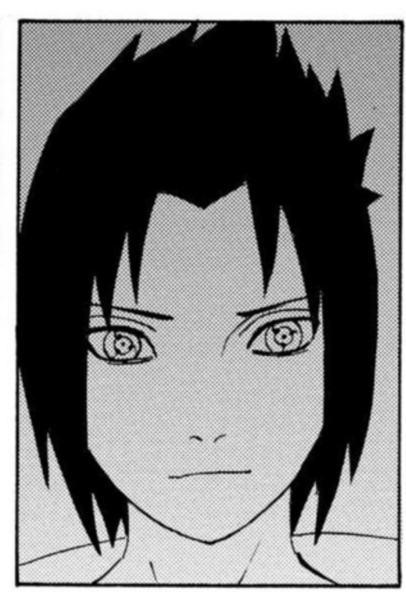

...REMIND ME OF UCHIHA MADARA...

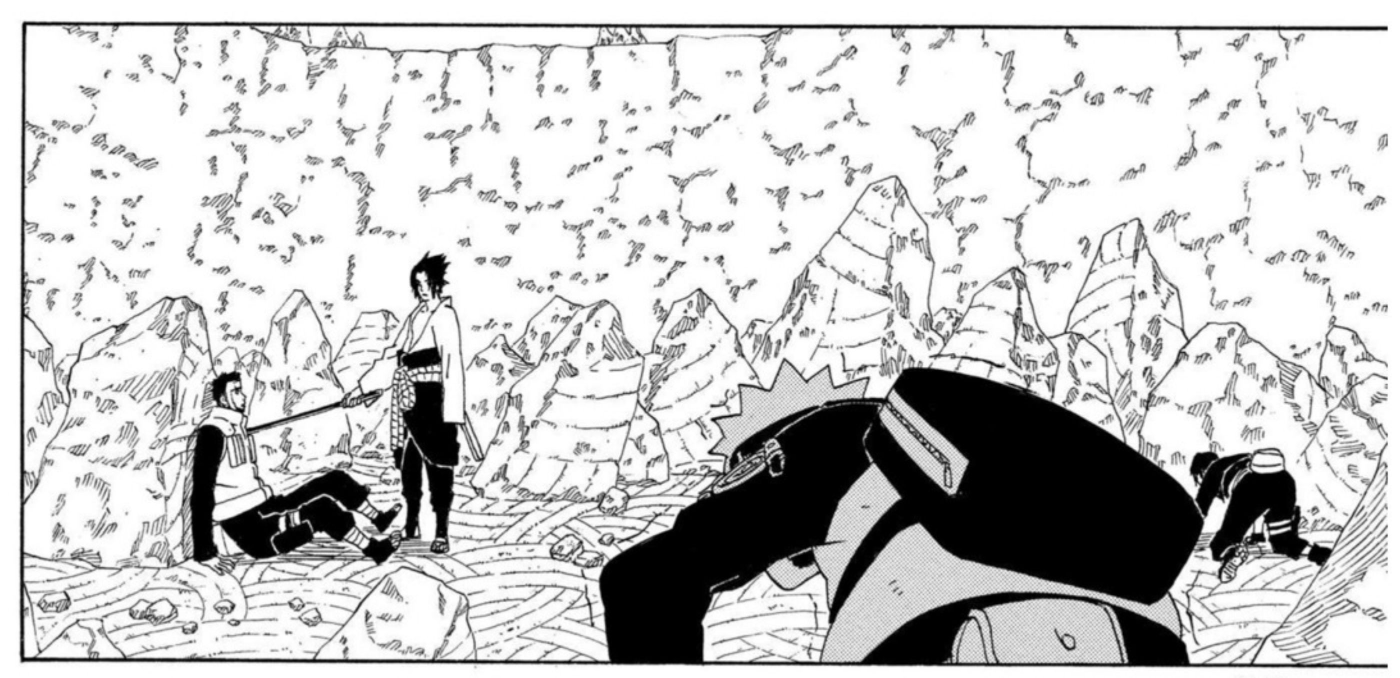


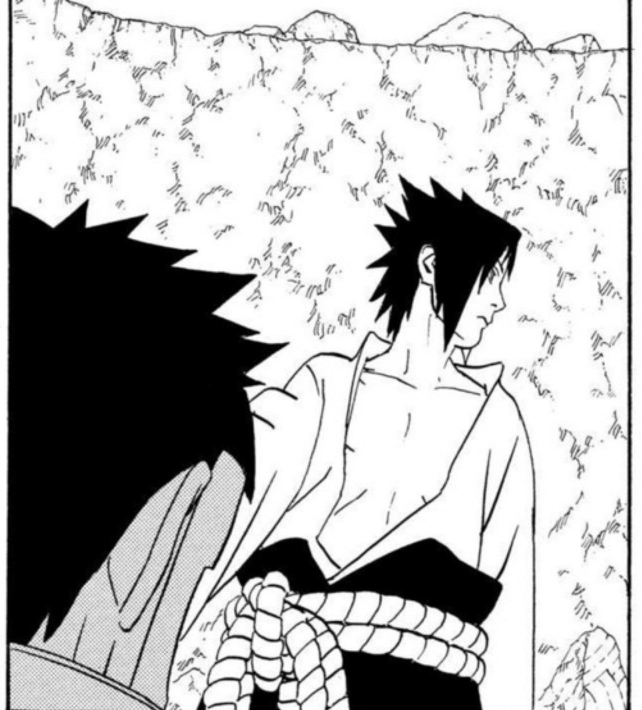

THOK


BLOOP
?!
I KNOW...
...NO SUCH PERSON.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE EVEN ABLE TO SUPPRESS MY POWER...
GLUB
FIZZLE
...
...IT MAY BE MY UNDOING, BUT...
...LET ME... TELL YOU... ONE THING...


...!

D...
ON'T...
KILL...
NA...
RUTO...



...Y...
OU'LL...
RE...
GRET...
IT...
POP




UNH...

HNNH
HNNH

SHUP

THWOOM
DOP

...!
WOOM


ZWHOOSH
!
WOBBLE
BZZ
WHSSH



TAP











DON'T YOU GET IT?!!

OROCHIMARU'S GOING TO STEAL YOUR BODY!!

...

...

...

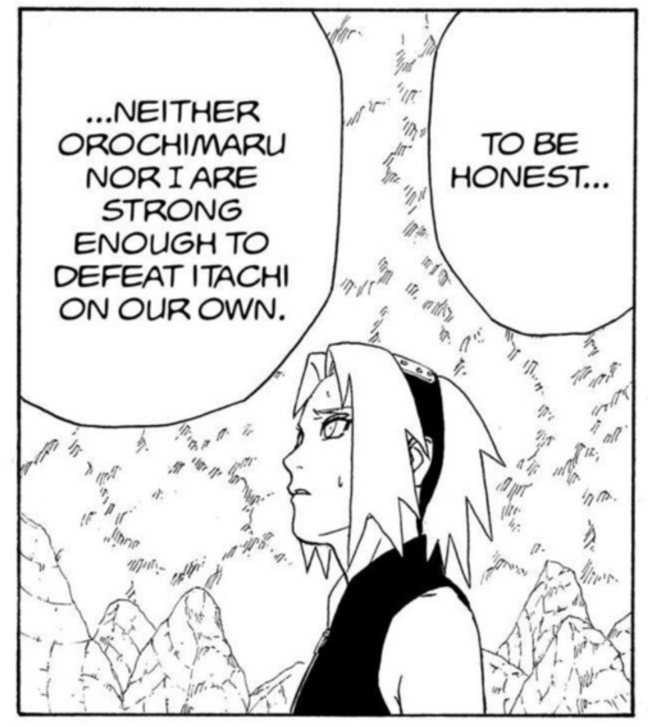




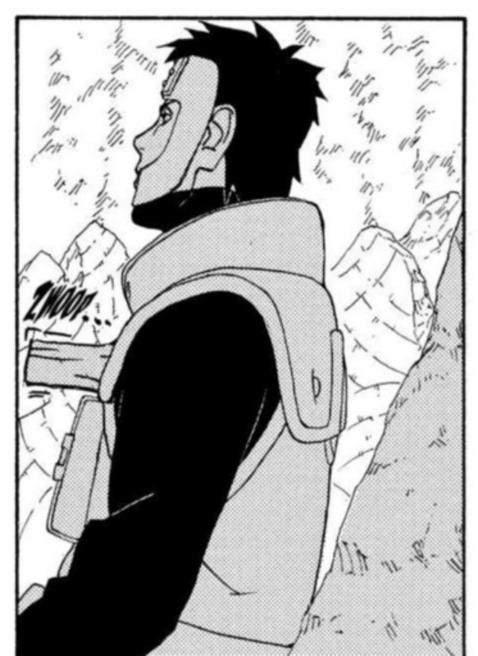

READ THIS WAY


YOU'RE STILL SUCH A CHILD, NARUTO.


I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME OR TO THE REST OF THE WORLD...
...SO LONG AS I CAN GET MY REVENGE.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

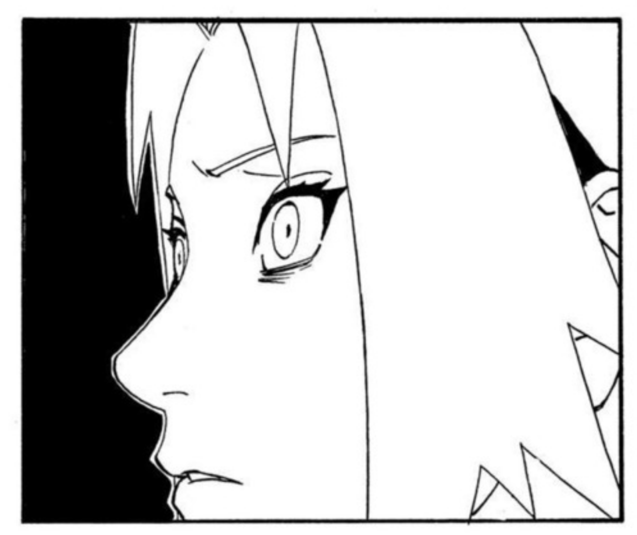

TO BE HONEST...
...NEITHER OROCHIMARU NOR I ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ITACHI ON OUR OWN.


BUT IF I CAN OBTAIN THE POWER TO DEFEAT ITACHI...
...BY GIVING MYSELF OVER TO OROCHI-MARU...


ZWOOP...

...I WOULD GLADLY GIVE HIM MY LIFE...

...MANY TIMES OVER.





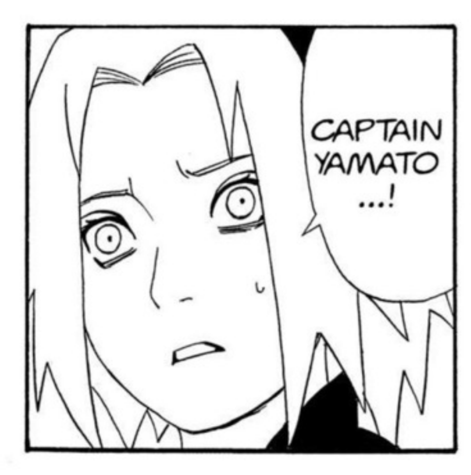




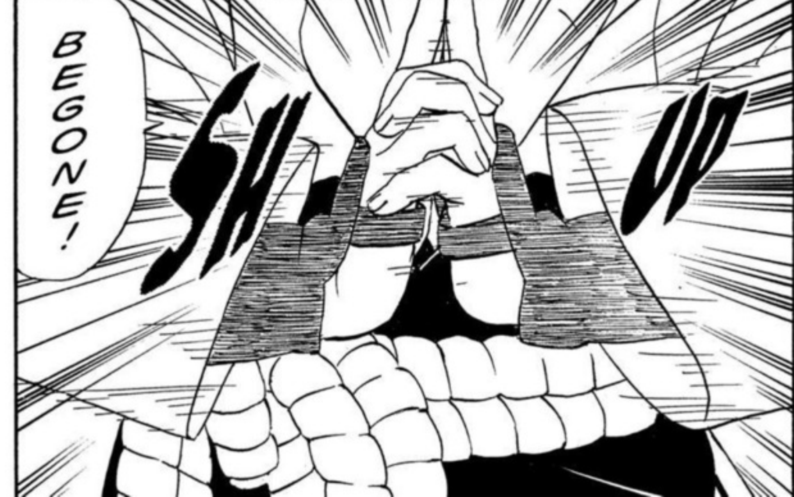


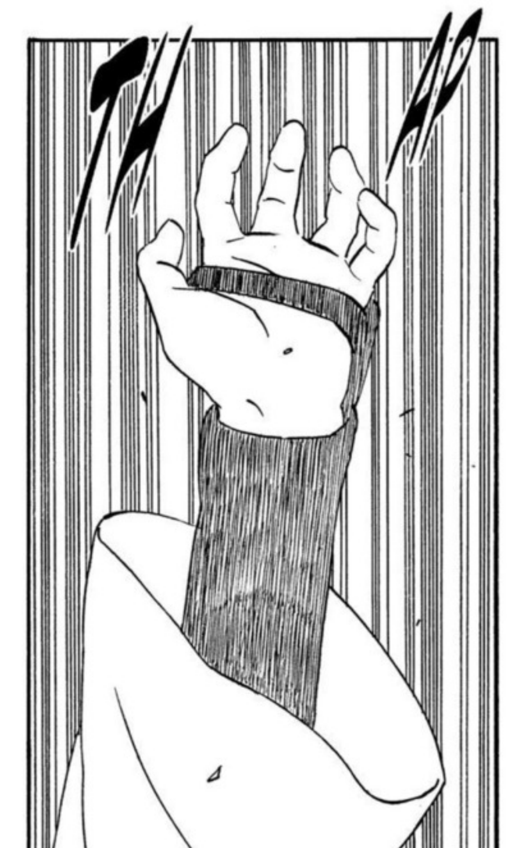
ENOUGH TALK.
NARUTO, SAKURA...
...OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE TWO OF YOU, I HAVEN'T TAKEN DRASTIC MEASURES AGAINST SASUKE, BUT...



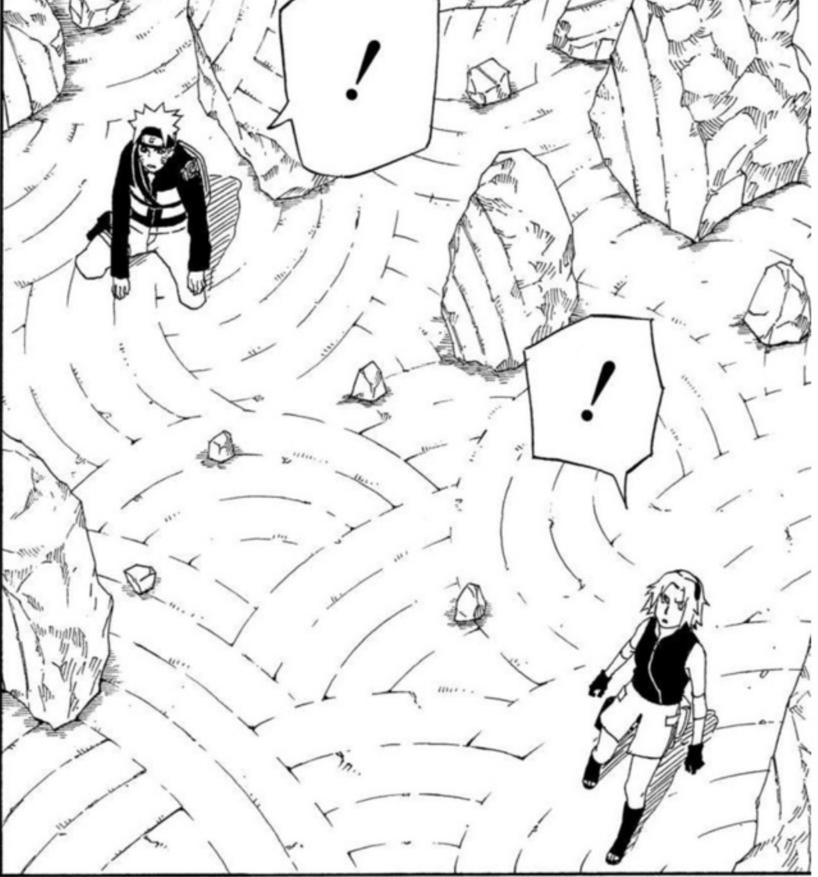




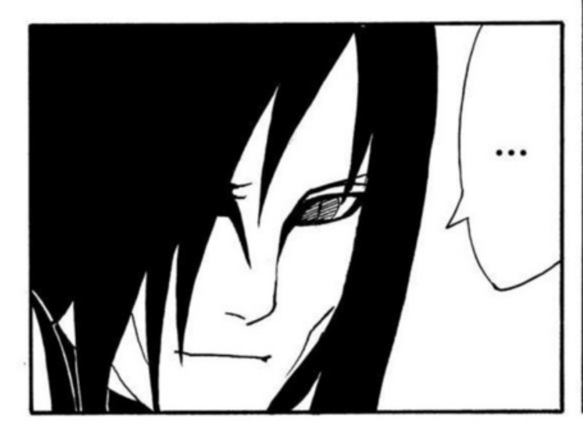




WHOOSH
FAP
!
I WOULDN'T USE *THAT* JUTSU... SASUKE.





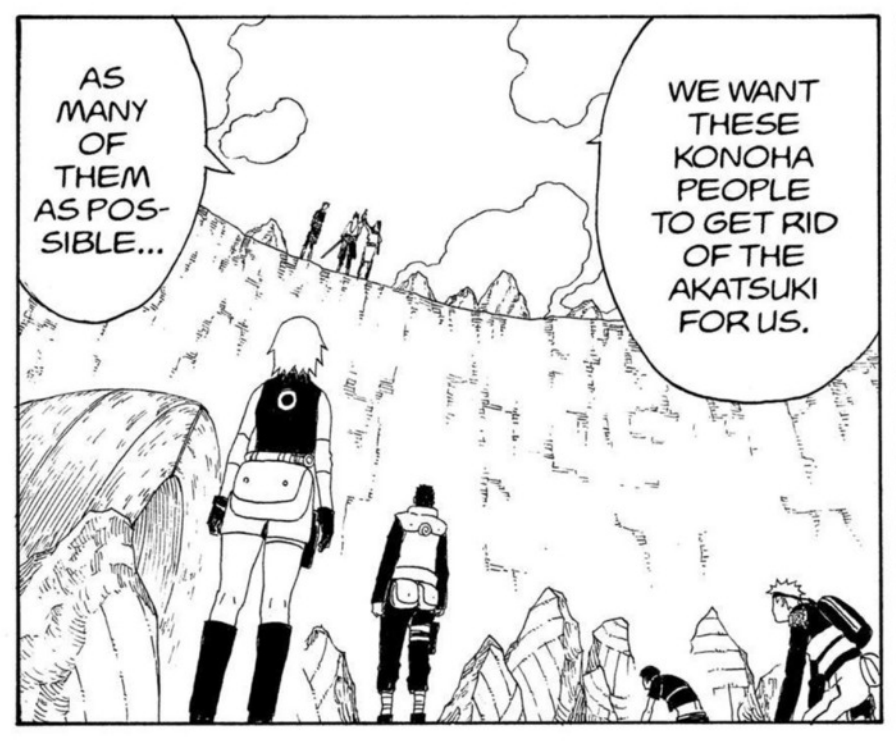


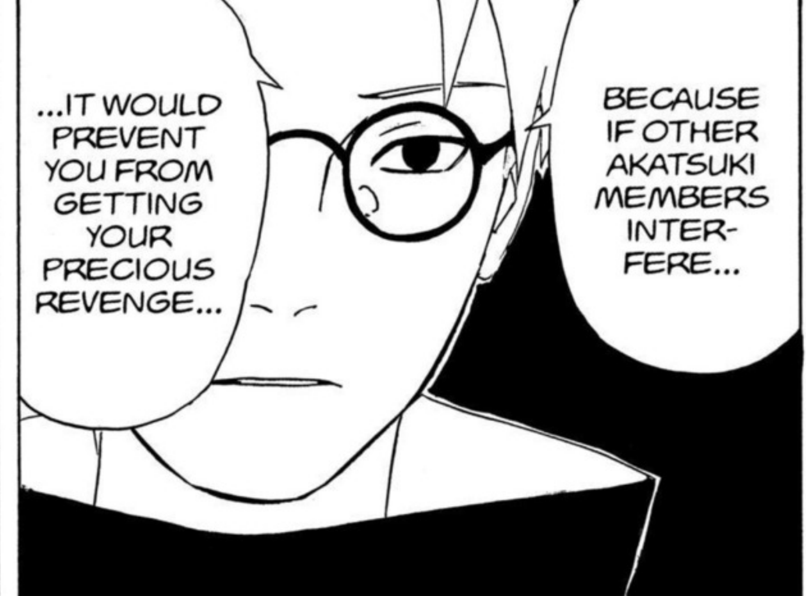

READ
THIS
WAY


WHOOSH
NOW... WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT BEING MORE RESPECTFUL TOWARD LORD OROCHIMARU...?


...WHY SHOULD I STOP?


YOU KNOW THAT THE AKATSUKI'S ON THE MOVE.

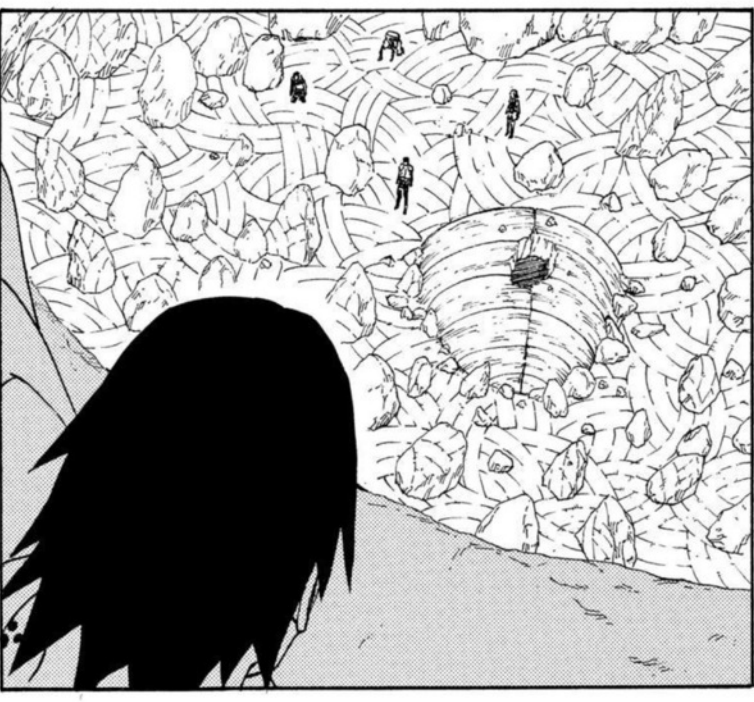

WE WANT THESE KONOHA PEOPLE TO GET RID OF THE AKATSUKI FOR US.
AS MANY OF THEM AS POS-SIBLE...

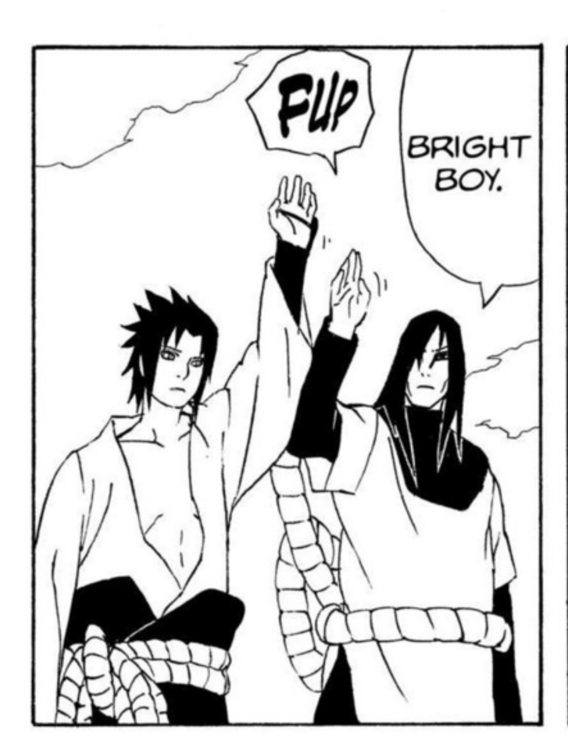

BECAUSE IF OTHER AKATSUKI MEMBERS INTER-FERE...
...IT WOULD PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING YOUR PRECIOUS REVENGE...


...THAT'S A PITIFUL EXCUSE.


JEOPARDIZE YOUR QUEST FOR VENGEANCE... OR INCREASE ITS CHANCE OF SUCCESS...
...WHICH SEEMS THE MORE PRUDENT CHOICE TO YOU?


...




BRIGHT BOY.
FUP

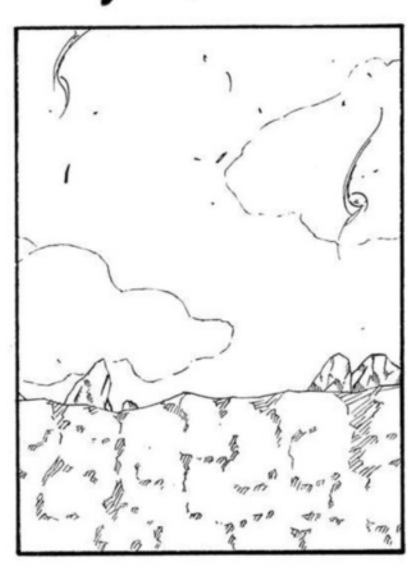

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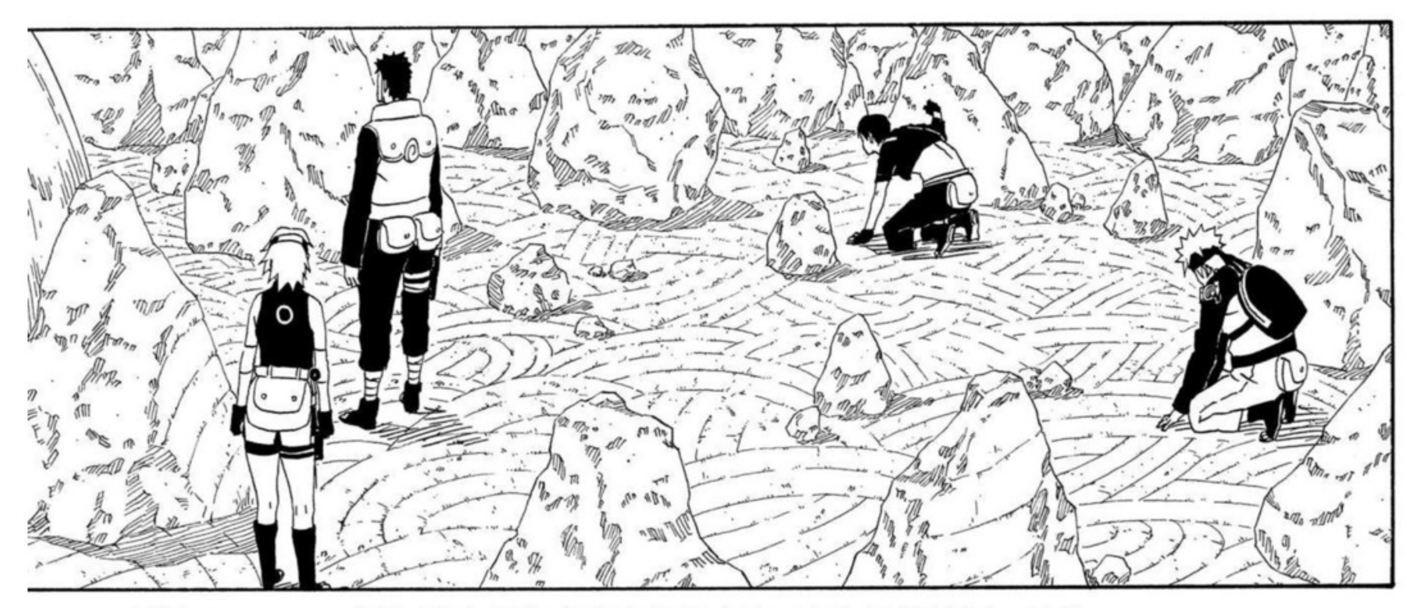












TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOL. 35!